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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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75¢

Young cop arrested for allegedly extorting money from motorist

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A young police officer was arrested in Dandan on Friday night for allegedly pulling over a vehicle operated by a Chinese woman for a traffic violation and threatening to put her in jail if she would not have sex with him or pay him $300 cash last month.

» Cop allegedly handcuffed woman for traffic violation, asked to have sex with him

Police Officer 1 Travis Anthony Dela Cruz Iglecias, 24, was served with an arrest warrant on charges of theft by extortion, bribery, and misconduct in public office.

Saipan Tribune learned that Iglecias resigned from the Department of Public Safety last Wednesday.

According to Attorney General Investigation Division investigator Vicente B. Babauta, during his interview last Oct. 5, Iglecias confessed to the allegations and admitted that what he did was wrong.

See COP on Page 4

CEC finds 85 'dual voters'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission has found 85 registered voters who also appear to be voters outside of the CNMI such as Guam or in the United States mainland.

» 21K ballots ordered for 17,936 registered voters

During a meeting on Friday, the CEC board of commissioners de-

See CEC on Page 4

ERWIN ENCINARES
Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Juan M. Sablan, left, and executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero look on a document as they meet with officials of Best Sunshine International, Ltd. in yesterday's board meeting at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library's video teleconference room.

Casino commission board to visit Grand Mariana construction site

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission's board will be making a site visit to the ongoing construction of the Grand Mariana Casino Hotel and Resort this month to personally see and inspect the facility being built by Best Sunshine International, Ltd.

Commonwealth Casino Commis-

See CASINO on Page 4

21 Days Before ELECTION DAY

INSIDE

LOCAL
Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Office of the Attorney General presented to the Legislature their proposal to amend the CNMI's domestic violence laws.

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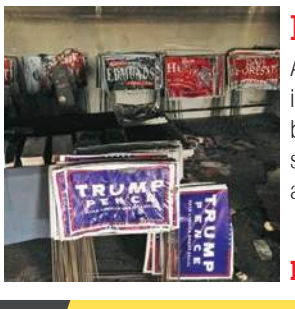

NATION
A local Republican Party office in North Carolina was torched by a flammable device and someone spray-painted an anti-GOP slogan.

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WORLD
Iraqi government and Kurdish forces, backed by U.S.-led coalition air and ground support, launched coordinated military operations early on Monday.

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Local

OUT OF 14 CASES REVIEWED BY HIGH COURT

OAG: 12 of judge Camacho's ruling were reversed, vacated

Of the 14 times the CNMI Supreme Court reviewed Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho's rulings, the high court reversed or vacated his decision-making 12 times, according to the Office of the Attorney General's evaluation on the criminal appellate record.

Camacho said the OAG list was "incorrect and incomplete."

According to OAG's evaluation obtained by Saipan Tribune yesterday, since June 25, 2014 the Supreme Court decided 29 criminal cases and that 14 of those were Camacho's cases.

A source from the OAG said this means that in the 2 1/2-year period since the high court first reviewed Camacho's decisions, it has spent 48.28 percent of its time reviewing his decision-making.

"That is roughly half of its time dedicated to reviewing the decision making of one out of the five judges," the source added.

By comparison, according to OAG's evaluation, the high court reviewed then-associate judge David A. Wiseman nine times (31 percent), and three others—Associate Judges Kenneth L. Govendo, Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, and then-Associate Judge Perry B. Inos—were reviewed twice each (6.9 percent).

Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio was reviewed zero times.

Of the 29 criminal cases, according to OAG's evaluation, the high court reversed or otherwise vacated all or a portion of any Superior Court judge's decision 17 times.

Accordingly, the source said, Camacho's reversals account for 70.59 percent of all such reversals in this jurisdiction since June 25, 2014.

OAG evaluates the criminal appellate record of judges who are up for retention on the bench. Camacho ascended to the bench in November 2011. He is seeking retention this Nov. 8 election.

OAG evaluated only criminal cases decided by the Supreme Court on or after June 25, 2014 to today's date since that is the first opportunity the high court had to evaluate one of Camacho's cases.

It means that OAG did not look at decisions from 2012 and 2013 because the high court had not begun reviewing Camacho's decisions those years. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CUC begins payment plan for money owed to CDA

By MICHAEL T. SANTOS
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has finally come around to paying dividends owed to the Commonwealth Development Authority under a $45-million stock transfer in 2009.

Under the deal, which was forged last Friday during a meeting between both camps' board members, CUC gave CDA a check worth $1.1 million to partially pay the $4.3 million in dividends it owes.

Moving forward, CUC then promised to pay CDA $100,000 a month during a two- to three-year period or until the $4.3 million in owed dividends have been paid off.

"We're giving them a check today of $1.1 million and then as we move forward under the agreement we're obligated to pay approximately $270,000 per quarter to CDA," said CUC legal council James Sirok.

MICHAEL T. SANTOS

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Adelina Roberto poses with other CUC officials after handing the Commonwealth Development Authority a $1.1 million check that represents partial payment of dividends owed to CDA during a turnover ceremony Friday.

The CUC legal council also delved into the history of the CUC-CDA stock transfer.

"In 2009 a stock transfer agreement was executed because, at the time, there was this substantial amount of money owed by CUC to CDA. Rather than pay the actual cash, it was sort of transferred into a stock, about $45 million a stock. Based on the transfer agreement, dividends had to be paid over the years, but they have not been paid due to financial conditions of the corporation."

Sirok explained that under the agreement a couple years back; there was a 2 percent dividend payment every year, which is $900,000. However, since the dividends have not been paid since 2010, an immense amount was racked up.

When asked how much money was owed in dividends, Sirok claims that it would approximately be $4.3 million as of Oct. 1 with them paying it off over a two- to three-year period at the rate of a $100,000 a month.

In regards to how the $45 million is going to be paid Sirok said, "We are able to reduce the amount through capital improvement projects, up to $16 million. So that means if we spend money to improve the power plant, for example, whatever that cost we can deduct from the $45 million."

To obtain funding to afford the dividends, CUC used payments made by the Public School System.

When asked how it feels to start paying back the money they owe Sirok said, "People can now look at us and say, "Okay, we can trust CUC to meet its financial obligations."

Manuel Sablan, executive director for CDA, was asked how he feels about the agreement. He said, "Tremendous! We have been working on this thing for the longest time and have a lot of appreciation for the CUC board and staff for cooperating. This account has been online for a long time. It's also the first time they [CUC] made a substantial payment and going forward, we're anticipating for them to continue making payments."

In terms of what the money CDA received is going to be used for, Sablan said, "This money is actually for revolving. So when any government agencies involved in public infrastructure come to CDA for a loan, we can lend them some financial assistance."

Woman stabs common-law husband during argument

A woman allegedly stabbed and injured her common-law husband with a knife during their argument at their bedroom in San Antonio on Sunday midnight.

The victim sustained a cut on his left pinky, a 1-inch cut on the inner forearm, a cut on his right thumb, and 2 and a half-inch cut on the right side of abdomen. He was treated and admitted for further observation at the Commonwealth Health Center, police said.

Fatima Kosam Rahaman, 23, was arrested that same day for assault with a dangerous weapon, and disturbing the peace.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho maintained the $30,000 cash bail that Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio earlier imposed.

Preliminary hearing will be on Oct. 24 at 9am. Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Rahaman. Assistant attorney general Barbara Cepeda appeared for the government.

Police Detective Koji Taisakan stated in his report that a police officer responded to a residence in San Antonio after the Department of Public Safety Central Dispatcher received a call from the victim that his common-law wife stabbed him.

Taisakan said the officer confirmed the report and arrested Rahaman on Sunday at 12:49am.

Taisakan said preliminary investigation showed that the responding officer inquired Rahaman if she was the person who stabbed her common-law husband.

Rahaman, who was observed to have bloodstains on her short pants, admitted she stabbed her common-law husband apparently because he was going to beat her up.

Rahaman stated that it was dark and that she grabbed a knife and started stabbing her common-law husband.

Rahaman told police that she threw the knife in a small patch of jungle west of her mother's residence. The couple resides in her mother's house, where the stabbing incident occurred. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Sixto: Error cost CUC SNILD appropriation

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) said the mistake committed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on the report they submitted cost them financial assistance from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation. He asked CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho to resubmit the report.

Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) chairs the SNILD Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications committee with Igisomar heading the Senate side.

According to the first report that was submitted, CUC would need more than $321 million to complete its infrastructure projects and other improvements. However, there were discrepancies on the numbers that were given to Igisomar and in actuality CUC only needs $124.7 million.

Igisomar said he did not focus too much on the errors of the first report submitted by Camacho, but he just cautioned them to review documents before releasing them in order not to commit the same mistake in the future.

"I didn't go that far to question [the error]. For me, I was not focusing on that matter and all I told them was to let them know they have to review documents in the future. The document that was given was needed by SNILD because what we're trying to do is appropriate funds from the developers infrastructure tax," Igisomar said.

He added that they were trying to appropriate $2 million to at least lessen the financial problems of CUC. "But we're looking at $300 million. It is a lot more easier for the delegation to say that 'let's not deal

See SIXTO on Next Page

HANMI occupancy down 9 pct in September 2016

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 84.78 percent occupancy among 11 member hotels for September 2016, a 9-percent decrease compared to September 2015.

HANMI said 58,920 of 69,501 available room nights sold in September 2016, compared to 65,103 of 69,060 available room nights sold over the same period last year. Average room rates were $130.98 during the month, compared to $122.99 last September.

"Although we are showing a decrease of 9 percent, we have to remember that last year, factors relating to Typhoon Soudelor resulted in a high occupancy percentage. Compared to September of 2014 and 2013, we show an increase of 10 percent for the month," said HANMI chair Gloria Cavanagh.

"This just goes to show the volatility of the tourism industry and the importance of maintaining our marketing and promotion efforts in our overseas source markets. Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres made the right choice in keeping budget funding for the Marianas Visitors Authority intact this fiscal year, and we thank him," she added.

So far this calendar year, the average occupancy rate is 87.49 percent, while the average room rates is $141.40

HANMI was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. HANMI also makes regular charitable donations to support non-profit organizations and tourism-related government projects.

HANMI and Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation will co-host the CNMI Next Top Chef competition on Nov. 2, 2016, at Saipan World Resort to raise funds of Empty Vessel's community service projects. Tickets are $35/person and are available from Empty Vessel and HANMI member hotels.

Membership in HANMI is open to all qualified hotels, motels, guesthouses, and other lodging entities for tourists, as well as affiliated businesses. For more information or to request a membership application, visit www.saipanhotels.org. ***(HANMI)***

Torres signs local bills

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Friday signed House Local Bill 19-53 and the Tinian Local Bill 19-4 last Friday. HLB 19-53 is now Saipan Local Law 19-25 while TLB 19-4 becomes Tinian Local Ordinance 19-4, with both local bills recently passed by their respective local delegations—the Saipan and Northern Islands and the Tinian and Aguiguan legislative delegations.

SLL 19-25 amended a section of Saipan Local Law 18-04 or the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, while TLB 19-4 would make limited appropriations for personnel and operations of the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, the Tinian Mayor's Office, and the Tinian Municipal Treasury for fiscal year 2017.

SLL 19-25 amends 10 CMC 3511 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 where eight parcels of land in the San Roque area were classified as tourist resort zoning districts. Majority Leader Rep. George N. Camacho (R-Saipan) introduced HLB 19-53.

SNILD, when it passed the bill, found it appropriate in rezoning certain areas on Saipan. The local delegation agreed that rezoning certain districts in done in the best interest of the community.

TLO 19-4, which was introduced by TALD chair Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), appropriated the money collected from the casino license fees that would pay the employees of three local agencies and fund their daily operations. TALD is the one obligated to prepare and pass the Tinian Local Budget every fiscal year.

TCGCC, however, informed the delegation a projected casino revenue of $1,375,000 from the casino license fees paid by the casino operator licensees. The remaining casino gaming revenue tax paid by the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, which remains closed, was also part of the municipality's income.

TALD would appropriate additional gaming funds once it becomes available. The municipality has not benefitted from the Tinian Dynasty after it closed on Aug. 14, 2015.

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Manglona grants 2 plane crash survivors' request to seize $1.4M from TDHC assets

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has ordered its clerk to issue a writ of execution to attorney Richard W. Pierce, the counsel for two plane crash survivors, in order to collect $1.4 million from bank accounts of the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona on Friday also ordered the clerk to direct the U.S. Marshal to levy execution on all funds in Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd.'s two accounts at Bank of Saipan and any Bank of Guam account it may hold, up to $1,375,952.71, to satisfy the survivors' judgment.

Writ of execution refers to a court order that allows for the collection of money or property owed by a judgment debtor.

Manglona issued the order following the survivors' request to seize HKE's assets in two banks after HKE has failed to pay on the $1.4 million federal court judgment to two plane crash survivors since its entry last April.

Plane crash survivors Tomoyuki Nagata and Dr. Jun Takimoto and his family, through counsel Pierce, recently filed a request for entry of writ of attachment before the court.

Writ of attachment refers to a court order directing a law enforcement or sheriff to "attach" or seize an asset.

Last April, Manglona ordered HKE to pay $606,723.10 to Nagata and $769,229.61 to Dr. Takimoto and his family to satisfy their settlement agreements.

Pierce said nothing has been paid yet on the $1,375,952.71 judgment.

Pierce disclosed that according to the bankruptcy filing of HKE, the company has two accounts at the Bank of Saipan.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

SIXTO

From Page 3

with this for now.'"

"But a less than $130 million needed, might just entice the people reviewing it to look at what are CUC's needs and to appropriate some funds out of the local delegation. In essence, the Legislators thought that the initial report of more than $300 million is too much and the amount on the revised document is better where we can look into," said Igisomar.

Igisomar added that the only thing that they need is to have the correct amount but because of the mistakes he decided not to discuss the document to the entire delegation. Because of the error, to be fair, it prevented us from supporting them."

"We have to put it aside until we receive the proper and correct documentation. It cost them, meaning they could have gained from the opportunity. That's why I didn't bring it out forcefully to the delegation."

CEC

From Page 1

cided to hire a private counsel to serve as a hearing officer who will preside over voter removal proceedings and voter challenges.

If no funding is found to hire a private counsel, as a backup plan the CEC board voted commissioner Jesus I. Sablan (Saipan) as the hearing officer.

Meanwhile, CEC ordered 21,000 ballots for the Nov. 8 general election. There are 17,936 registered ballots, including 1,401 who applied for absentee ballots.

CEC paid $27,000 to the Election Systems and Software from Nebraska for costs on printing of the ballots, site support, ballot layout and ballot coding. The ballots are expected to arrive on Saipan by Tuesday.

CEC board chair Frances M. Sablan in an interview after the meeting said they come with a list of 71 "nonresident voters" or "dual voters" but executive director Julita A. Villagomez has clarified 69 because two are considered inactive.

"We are sending them a letter right now. We have a draft copy of it, letting them know that we found that their names seem to appear as voting in another…outside of the CNMI whether it's Guam or the U.S.," Sablan said.

Villagomez disclosed yesterday they learned that there are now 85 "nonresident voters" or "dual voters."

The chair said there are others that they have not found yet to be possibly also "nonresident voters" so they are still in the process of verifying the election data.

Sablan said they are going to set on the letter a date Oct. 31, 2016 for the "nonresident voters" to call CEC and let the executive director know about their situation.

Sablan said executive director Villagomez or her designee will tell them about the hearing date.

Chair Sablan said if CEC does not find a funding for a private counsel nor can they find counsel, commissioner Jesus Sablan is the back up plan as he will be the hearing officer.

She said the hearing officer will actually hear and meet those "nonresident voters" personally or call to clarify because if they could be the persons that have the exact same names and everything.

Before the commissioners voted to appoint a hearing officer, CEC legal counsel assistant attorney general Michael Witry explained that CEC staff have to look at the people who requested absentee ballots and check the registration data base with registered data bases in other states to determine if they are registered there as well.

Witry said according to the Commonwealth law, if a person is registered to vote in another state, that person can't be registered to vote in the Commonwealth.

Witry said under 1 CMC Section 6206, CEC shall remove names of registered voters from the registry if they are already registered voters in another jurisdiction.

Witry suggested how CEC should address the issue by sending them out with a letter that says "here is your absentee ballot that you requested. However you should be aware that we found someone we think is you in another state voter registration data base and we believe therefore that you should not be permitted to vote in our election."

Witry said they will then be given a date by which they need to contact CEC to challenge the idea that they are actually not eligible to vote in the CNMI.

Witry recommended to appoint a lawyer to preside to hear evidence and make decision and if there is no money, appoint a CEC commissioner to hear the voter challenge.

The board agreed with Witry's recommendations.

On the printing of ballots, chair Sablan said they usually order 20,000 ballots just in case some ballots are spoiled and they would replace them.

On the sending and arrival of absentee ballots, Sablan said hopefully Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will reprogram some money so that they can spend for the postage and handling in order for them to expedite sending of ballots and receiving them back. Sablan said rather than the regular postal stamps that means it would take a matter of two weeks, they want to expedite.

Sablan said if that's not possible then she welcomes generally speaking without reading the actual bill, the extension that Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) is recommending in her bill. "But again I have to take a look at that," she said.

On the payment to the Election Systems and Software, Sablan said fortunately, Gov. Torres has assisted CEC in expediting the payment and the contract through the Office of the Attorney General.

The Election Systems and Software requires 100 percent for payment of printing of ballots and other services.

CASINO

From Page 1

sion executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said they have asked BSI officials to set a date where they could accommodate them. "We're thinking of having a site inspection to see first hand the progress of the ongoing construction of the hotel casino."

"My understanding is the casino portion will open first; then the first and second floors including three restaurants so they could offer service to the players, VIPs and other high rollers," added Deleon Guerrero.

Chair Juan M. Sablan, vice chair Joseph C. Reyes, and commissioners Justin Manglona, Martin San Nicolas, and Alvaro Santos, and legal counsel Michael Ernest are the other members of the CCC board.

The board held a meeting yesterday at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library's video teleconference room where officials from BSI and Imperial Pacific International also updated them on the status of the bond offering, the financial issues. BSI is a subsidiary of IPI, a Hong Kong-based conglomerate that holds the lone casino license on Saipan.

Grand Mariana's casino is scheduled to open by February next year with the entire hotel expected to be fully operational in August, the deadline on the licensee agreement that they entered with the CNMI government.

Early this month, BSI officials—led by chief executive officer Mark Brown, chief services officer Tao Xing, and company executive Xi Jia Bo—updated members of the House of Representatives on the status of the Grand Mariana's construction at the House chamber of the Hon. Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building.

BSI officials said they would address all issues raised by the House members that included on how to minimize the noise of the ongoing construction once the casino opens in early 2017.

"The entire hotel needs to open by August because there is a time frame that is stated on the licensee agreement. It says August is the end of the timeline that started from the time the license agreement was signed. There's a sequence of time where they must finish with the work," said Deleon Guerrero.

He added that barring any other hitches, the first phase of BSI's multi-million dollar project is scheduled to open on the target date. "Barring any hitches or God forbids a catastrophe just like a typhoon, they would finish right on schedule."

"[Unlike] last year where Saipan was hit by Typhoon Soudelor, there was some sort of shortage on cement, and other stuff," said Deleon Guerrero.

Torres' Nevada meeting

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who left last Saturday, will be meeting with officials each of the Nevada Gaming Control Board and the University Nevada, Las Vegas' International Gaming Institute. Torres is also in Las Vegas to meet with the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders committee Advisory Committee formed during the Republican National Convention.

"They [Torres and CNMI delegation], from what I understand, are going to meet with [NGCB] and [UNLV] International Gamin Institute. And maybe, they are going to look around some of the casinos," said Deleon Guerrero.

"We previously worked with [UNLV], they are like our consultants and they provided training to us. We also worked with the NGCB, in the sense that we helped each other in certain investigation issues and other related areas," he added.

COP

From Page 1

Babauta said the victim was still traumatized with the incident when she went to the Office of the Attorney Criminal Division last Sept. 26 and later filed a complaint with the AGID against Iglecias.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho maintained the $50,000 cash bail that Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed in issuing the arrest warrant.

Camacho set the preliminary hearing for Oct. 25 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Michael Sato was appointed as counsel for Iglecias. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government.

AGID investigator Babauta stated in his report that the victim was driving her Toyota 4-Runner on her way to the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport when Iglecias pulled her over for a traffic violation by the Mobil Gas Station in Chalan Kiya last Sept. 25 at 11:30pm.

Babauta said Iglecias informed the woman of her violation, immediately handcuffed her, and secured her in the back seat of the police car.

Iglecias allegedly told the woman that she was going to jail and that she has to pay $700-$800 for the traffic citation.

Babauta said instead of transporting the woman to the Department of Corrections, Iglecias drove her to her house in Gualo Rai.

Investigator Babauta said according to Iglecias, prior to driving the woman to her house, she told the officer that her children were home and nobody was watching them.

Babauta said Iglecias confessed that he already planned to release the woman if she wanted to have sex with him or make extra cash from her by threatening her with charges for leaving her children alone at the house.

Babauta said prior to leaving the Mobil Gas Station with the woman, Iglecias called DPS Central dispatcher by phone to disregard all transmittal from him on the traffic violator stop.

Iglecias instructed the dispatcher to erase or white out all the transmittal on the transmittal log sheet and to move the case number to the next complaint.

Babauta said Iglecias did not use his DPS-issued hand-held radio to disregard the case because he didn't want anybody to know that he was disregarding the woman's arrest.

Iglecias allegedly did not call in the mileage on the police car prior to taking the woman to her house in Gualo Rai.

Babauta said Iglecias stated that he drove the woman to her house and upon entering the driveway, he turned off all the head lights of the police car to avoid getting attention from the neighbors.

At the house, Iglecias allegedly told the woman that if she had sex with him or gave him massage he will release her and she does not have to go to jail.

When she refused to have sex, Iglecias allegedly told her to pay him instead $300 and that he would make the $700-$800 traffic citation go away.

After the woman paid $300, Iglecias released her from custody at the residence. The officer then went straight to San Jose Mart where he bought cigarettes.

Babauta said a surveillance video from the Mobil Gas Station confirmed that a police vehicle indeed pulled over the victim's 4-Runner at the station on Sept. 25 at 11:30pm.

Babauta said a gas attendant confirmed that the officer in the video was Iglecias, who is their regular customer.

Babauta said the victim identified Iglecias in the photo lineup showed to her.

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ACCORDING TO PSS SPED

Long-term suspension, expulsion rate drops

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

According to Public School System Special Education director Suzanne Lizama, the long-term suspension rate and expulsion rate for general education students are at their lowest since Fiscal Year 2008-2009, and displayed a significant drop for special education students compared to last year.

The general education population showed a 0.092-percent drop in FY 2013-2014, which raised significantly in FY 2014-2015, at 0.16 percent of students either getting long-term suspension or expulsion. The general education population shows that 0.03 percent of students receive long-term suspension or expulsion in FY 2015-2016.

Fiscal year 2015-2016 displays a difference of 0.08 percent when compared to special education students receiving long-term suspension and expulsion at 0.11 percent.

Special education students got long-term suspension and expulsion at 0.55 percent for FY 2014-2015. The difference of 0.44 percentage points from FY 2014-2015's 0.55 percent compared to FY 2015-2016's 0.11 percent is a significant decrease in suspension and expulsion among the special education population.

FY 2014-2015 showed even worse statistics, with a difference of 0.39 percent between general education students and special education students getting long-term suspension and expulsion, while fiscal year 2015-2016 shows that only 0.08 percent gets the same sanctions.

Through these statistics, Lizama shared that, "Overall, it's a good year, but there is always room for improvement."

The statistics were taken from the Individuals under the Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004's Part B for FY 2015-2016 Annual Performance Report.

The IDEA evaluates the efforts of public agents to provide special education and related services to those that are in need of such services nationwide.

Fat Joe, Walter Manglona to hold concert in Guam

Fat Joe, Walter Manglona, Rokjuan, Dean Manglona, Cliff Atalig, and Ben B are preparing to perform in a concert at the University of Guam Field House this coming Nov. 19.

Fat Joe, who is the main act, hails from the South Bronx area in New York. In the early '90s, he was able to obtain a recording contract with Relatively Label then switched over to Atlantic Records and Mystic Entertainment in the late '90s.

Popular songs from him are *Lean Back*, *What's Luv*, *Another Round* featuring Chris Brown, and *All The Way Up*. Fat Joe has also managed to perform with another big named hip hop star, 50 Cent.

Manglona, currently director for the CNMI Office on Aging, was officially invited to share the stage with Fat Joe thanks to the CEO of Club Matrix Productions after viewing some videos of him on Youtube.

Manglona said, "I am truly honored with this event. I cannot miss this great opportunity to share the stage with this amazing hip hop legend" when asked about the coming concert.

In regards to his future music plans, Manglona said, "I have signed a music deal with ATM Entertainment in conjunction with Jade Pro Studios to release my first ever digital album! My new album entitled 'Just me' will be available in over 150 online stores such as iTunes, Amazon Music, Rhapsody, Spotify, and more! Early next year I am heading to New York City to perform with other celebrity acts."

Asked to give a message to the young and inspiring musician from home, Manglona said, " Keep doing what you do. You never know what could happen. You will face some rejections in life; people might tell you that you are not good enough but don't ever let anything stop you from achieving your dreams. You have to persevere and stay optimistic. Keep reaching for the stars."

In addition to the Guam concert, a free concert will be held on Rota Oct. 28, 2016. The concert will take place at the Sinapalo Children's Park. For the event, Kevin Atalig, Tommy "Gun" Atalig, Davita and Denetrah Manglona, RokJuan, John Trevor Cruz, Dean Manglona, and more will be performing with it beginning at 6 PM.

Tickets are now available for the Guam concerts online at www.clubmatrixproductions.com. Tickets cost $35 for general admission and $75 for the platinum VIP tickets. ***(Michael T. Santos)***

Colgate, SDA Dental Clinic launch tooth decay prevention program

By MICHAEL T. SANTOS
michaeljan.t.santos@gmail.com
REPORTER

Saipan Seventh Day Adventist Dental Clinic teamed up with Colgate to install "Bright Smiles Bright Futures" program in elementary schools. The program increases awareness of tooth decay and reinforces the message of good hygiene and saving one's teeth. The official meeting and handout of oral kits was held last Friday.

SDA clinic director Kenneth D. Pierson said, "It's an initiative started by Colgate called 'Bright Smiles Bright Futures' and Micronesian Brokers, Inc. as a distributor for Colgate so we want to thank them for bringing all these kits here. Our part is to just let these kits get into the hands of who they are intended for."

Pierson explained that the program actually targets a much younger audience. Children in pre-school, kinder, first grade, and second grade, are the students he hopes to obtain the most benefit out of the "Bright Smiles Bright Futures" program.

To clarify which students are going to receive the oral kits, Pierson said, "When we calculate the numbers [of students who received kits] let's include Tinian and Rota too. Let's make sure these kids receive a kit as well."

Inside the kits were toothbrushes, toothpaste, a parental guide for each student, a teacher lesson-planning guide, and a DVD of a cartoon promoting good oral hygiene.

Official representative of the Public School System and Garapan Elementary School vice principal Derwin Johnson also made his remarks on the issue.

Johnson said, "On behalf of PSS, we really appreciate the kits and we look forward to educating our children and extending the message of the program 'Bright Smiles Bright Futures.'"

The program aims to reach ten thousand children in 2016. Moreover, Colgate will dedicate 20 cents from each of their Colgate products being sold in stores throughout Saipan this month to fund the oral health school program.

Colgate would also like to acknowledge Micronesian Brokers s well as Dr. Warren Creed and his team at the Saipan SDA Dental Clinic for their support and looks forward to a long-term partnership promoting good oral health for the children of Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SDA Dental Clinic director Kenneth D. Pierson, middle left, poses with Garapan Elementary School vice principal of Derwin Johnson, middle right, during the turnover of new oral kits last Friday at the SDA Dental Clinic along Quartermaster Road.

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EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 29, 2016

THE CNMI DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY ISSUES THE FOLLOWING

MORATORIUM NOTICE on

N.M.I. ADMINISTRATIVE CODE CHAPTER 80 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, SUB-CHAPTER 80-20.1 EMPLOYMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS § 80-20.1-210 (C) (3) Exemptions from Workforce Participation § 80-20.1-215 (b) Particular Construction Project. Exemptions issued prior to this notice remains in effect until their expiration date.

This moratorium notice shall be in effect until such time that the CNMI Secretary of Labor publishes a new notice on this matter.

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Torres, OAG endorses anti-domestic violence bill

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, seated second right, and Rep. Antonio P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) listen as Attorney General Edward Manibusan delivers his speech during last Friday's presentation of a proposed bill against domestic violence to members of the Legislature at the Governor's Office conference room.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Office of the Attorney General presented to the Legislature their proposal to amend the CNMI's domestic violence laws as part of efforts to combat and control this problem in the Commonwealth.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan and his staff, led by assistant attorney general Michael Witry, who drafted the bill, joined Torres in presenting to the Legislature—led by Senate President Francisco M. Borja (Ind-Saipan) and House majority leader Rep. George N. Camacho (R-Saipan)—their proposed bill.

Torres said the OAG's proposed bill was timely after he recently signed a proclamation declaring October as the 22nd Domestic Violence Awareness Month. "It's good that the administration, the AG, and the Legislature are united when it comes to this issue."

"It is important for us, with October being Domestic Violence and Sexual Awareness Month, to stiffen laws against all those perpetrators and predators. We must always treat women with dignity, love, and respect," said Torres.

He added the draft bill was a collaboration of Manibusan, Witry, and the entire OAG. "We [administration and OAG] are working with a couple of bills that would address issues that we've been having regarding domestic violence laws."

"I want the community to know the administration is serious in cracking down with this kind of behavior. We want to promote this kind of legislation and I encourage the Legislature to act on it as soon as possible."

Manibusan said the proposed bill is part of recognizing their efforts against domestic violence. "We are presenting a proposal in the area of domestic violence and we must promote awareness with this kind of problem in our community."

"I commend the OAG's staff, from those who worked behind the scenes to those who prosecute the offenders and protect the victims. It is a great deal of work to be done to prevent domestic violence, abuse, and sexual assault but we must work as a team to combat this growing problem."

Witry said the bill has three components, first of which is classifying the offense of strangulation as a felony. "Because strangulation is a major warning sign that the abuser has the potential to kill their victim."

"Majority of states have laws that have strangulation as a felony, that would give you up to seven years in prison. Research showed that victims of strangulation have a 750 percent chance of being killed by their abuser," said Witry.

The proposed bill would also modernize the CNMI's stalking laws where it aims to protect people from those that are not covered by the current laws. Lastly, the bill presents a set of rules that applies to domestic violence cases.

MVA joins Yarmarka Travel expo in Russia

MVA

The Marianas Visitors Authority promoted Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at Yarmarka Travel 2016 held in Vladivostok, Russia, on Sept. 25, 2016.

MVA

Children and adults visited the Marianas Visitors Authority exhibition at Yarmarka Travel 2016 held in Vladivostok, Russia, on Sept. 25, 2016. The exhibition was attended by approximately 3,000 people.

The Marianas Visitors Authority participated in the Yarmarka Travel 2016 event on Sept. 25, 2016, in Vladivostok. The event was organized by the Freagat Aero travel agency, one of the top agencies of Vladivostok, with the support of the local government.

"The main objectives of the MVA's participation was to increase awareness of the Northern Mariana Islands and to promote Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as the best destination for families traveling from Vladivostok," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The Russian market is a lucrative one for us, as Russian visitors typically stay longer and spends more compared to other tourists, and we continue to promote in this prime market in anticipation of their economy recovery."

MVA

Mosiac-making attracts children and their families to the Marianas Visitors Authority exhibition at Yarmarka Travel 2016 held in Vladivostok, Russia, on Sept. 25, 2016.

The event was held at Naberezhnaya Cesarevicha in the center of the city, an area very popular among Vladivostok citizens for its large variety of family amusements. Besides the MVA, 60 exhibitors including tourism offices of Japan, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam, Macao, China, and Singapore also participated in Yarmarka Travel 2016.

At the NMI's exhibition stand, attendees could meet with representatives of the MVA Russia team, ask questions concerning travel to the NMI, and receive brochures, guidebooks and branded giveaways. To attract more visitors to the NMI exhibition, a mosaic-making master class for kids was offered, and Saipan-da and island-themed animators interacted with the crowd. At the interactive photo booth, guests of the event could immediately receive a memorable photo with branded tablets or animators.

According to the organizer of the event, more than 3,000 guests visited the exhibition. ***(PR)***

MVA

Russians use an interactive photo booth to commemorate their visit to the Marianas Visitors Authority exhibition at Yarmarka Travel 2016 held in Vladivostok, Russia, on Sept. 25, 2016.

CNMI NAP to move toward SNAP-Comparable Program

Last month, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres met with Jesus Mendoza, regional administrator for the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture, to discuss options on how to best use new money to provide more food assistance to low-income families in the Northern Marianas.

On Thursday, Torres notified USDA Food and Nutrition Service Administrator Audrey Rowe regarding the feasibility of the SNAP Pilot Program in the Northern Mariana Islands indicating that CNMI NAP is endeavoring to move towards a SNAP-Comparable Program.

"After careful review of Rowe's letter and of the recently completed SNAP Feasibility Study, it is the intention of the CNMI to move in the direction of a SNAP-comparable program, with the aim of the eventual transition to the SNAP," Torres said.

Torres added that it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth that there are considerable issues involved with pursuing the SNAP Pilot Program that will work against a successful outcome.

"The limited scope of time for the completion of the Pilot and the numerous and significant changes to eligibility, benefits, and administration for such a brief period of time being the most significant," Torres says, as the CNMI NAP has already embarked on the path to seeing its eligibility system developed and will see the transition to an EBT system in the near future.

For Torres, the move closer to the national SNAP by providing increased benefits, adjusted income guidelines, and better, more accountable service delivery will allow families in need of assistance to be better served while providing them a greater opportunity to build self-sufficiency.

"We all know there are ways in which we can improve the way we provide these essential services to the many families in the CNMI," Torres adds, "by increasing income guidelines, a head of household can obtain a full-time, minimum wage job, without potentially losing benefits. This, along with the eventual goal of utilizing the EBT card system for benefits, will have positive effects to our overall workforce population and economy."

Last month, Regional Administrator Mendoza also met with U/S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to discuss options that are U.S.-equivalent food assistance for the Commonwealth.

"I would like to thank Congressman Sablan for his assistance in this process to allow for a more efficient use of NAP funding and improving these services to those who need it most," Torres said.

Department of Community and Cultural Affair Secretary Robert Hunter says that work is well underway to fulfilling the governor's vision for the NAP program.

"It is our goal to review and amend the NAP processes, guidelines, and utilize the available resources to increase eligibility and benefits, to bring them in parallel where possible with those of the SNAP to increase benefits and services for our population," Hunter states, adding that the transition toward this new vision for NAP will take time but that the benefits of these enhanced services are evident.

"Following the governor's letter, we will put our effort into working alongside FNS and Congressman Sablan's Office to see this come to fruition for our clients and the community," he said. ***(PR)***

Scheduled power interruption today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that there is a scheduled power interruption today, Oct. 18, from 7:30am to 5:30pm.

The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the primary lines to allow the CUC line crew to safely replace two rotted 45' power poles to 55' power poles, install new conductors for double circuit for Best Sunshine International, Ltd. power connection. This is part of ongoing systems maintenance throughout the island to address deficiencies on the electrical distribution grid. CUC greatly appreciates the understanding of the community during this period.

Water services may be affected in the area during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

Areas to be affected: Feeder 2: Hibiscus St (Grandvrio, ABC Store Building, Joeten Hafa Adai Building)

Water Well affected: None

Sewer Lift Station affected: S4

Traffic light affected: None

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, we ask travelers to take alternate routes or to excise caution when driving through the affected areas.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(CUC)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
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AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the special meeting set for **Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.** is hereby **rescheduled to Thursday, October 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   - A. Call to Order
   - B. Roll Call
   - C. Reading of Notice Calling Special Meeting
   - D. Adoption of Agenda
   - E. Correspondence

II. **Public Comments****

III. **Executive Session*****
(Confer with the Legal Counsel regarding legal matters)

IV. **Adjournment**

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda may be modified during the meeting.
** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

It's all about Championing the People's Cause

Your Republican Leaders remain committed to its ideals in developing a vibrant community. They advocate and advance legislations and programs that create opportunities through increase of business developments, infrastructure enhancements, creation of jobs, increase of family disposable income, and other capacity building initiatives to advance the quality of life for our people. Your Republican Candidates for Precinct 1 have rolled up their sleeves and are eager to continue championing the people's cause.

REPUBLICAN

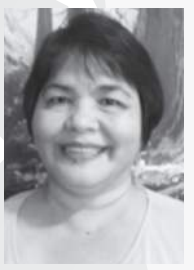
As your Representative, I authored H.B. 19-187 to increase the CNMI minimum wage to the federal level without further delay. I also co-sponsored and voted for the passage of H.B. 19-3 to enact a new base salary schedule for all civil service employees of the government. With more money in the hands of consumers, family securities are enhanced while demand for goods and services support business activities. After all, empowering families with disposable income makes economic sense. I am STILL COMMITTED TO YOU.

I humbly ask for your continued vote of confidence this November.

4 DEMAPAN, Angel Aldan

Having a healthy economy should equate to improved livelihoods for every individual family. It is useless for the economy to continue to rise if family income remains the same. I have worked to support and advance legislation that will improve the financial security of our people. From salary adjustments for government employees and increasing minimum wage for private sector employees to restoring full pension benefits to our retirees. I will continue to create opportunities for our people to prosper along with a thriving economy. I ask for your continued trust and for your vote of confidence as we work diligently to sustain responsible economic growth that would support our initiatives to continue enhancing the quality of life of our people.

5 DELEON GUERRERO, Joseph Pinaula



Our people deserve nothing less than knowing that their elected leaders act in the public's best interests. Serving the interests of the public has always been my top priority in my prior terms as your legislator, and will remain my priority if elected as your REPRESENTATIVE once again. I will ensure that our government preserves your values in its decision making processes.

I pledge NO FANCY WORDS…. Just HARD WORK.

This November, I humbly ask for your help, your support and for your vote of confidence.

6 MARATITA, Janet Ulloa

The work that I do has always been for the welfare of our people. I have authored and supported legislation that advances programs to improve the life standard of our people. Our progress is evident with a robust economy that has resonated business developments, recovery of full retirement pension, more job opportunities and ensuring disposable income to families in our community.

I pledge my continued commitment to a balance investment options on our island that will further provide our residents equal access to opportunities.

With humility and respect, I ask for your continued vote of confidence.

7 SABLAN, Antonio Pangelinan

I am passionate about continuing to be your Representative that helps push forward ideas, shaping an innovative and sustainable new direction, and putting in the work required to make the necessary improvements for our community.

My priorities remain the local economy and the future of our community and culture. I will ensure an open and accountable representation that remains focused on what is best for our entire community.

This November, I respectfully ask for your vote of confidence. Elect a Proven Leader with Progressive Ideas.

8 GUERRERO, Joseph Lee Pan Tenorio

My candidacy is based on making sensible improvements for the CNMI. As a Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserve, my priorities are to help our soldiers, veterans and retirees gain access to better healthcare and benefits.

I will also focus on advancing legislation and programs to strengthen enforcement of our drug laws to reduce crime and protect our community. Together, we can build a safer CNMI.

I respectfully ask for your vote so that we can continue the course of the Solution Driven Leadership to further enhance our way of life.

11 SABLAN, Gregorio Jr. Muna

REPUBLICAN

Electing a Solution Driven Leadership in the Senate is equally important to provide assurance of legislation that advances the welfare of our people are supported and pushed through in the Senate. That assurance can only be possible with our Republican Candidate.

As your Senator, I am committed to the sensible development of the CNMI. During this initial 2 years, I focused my time on our retirees, policy realignment, healthcare, public utilities and most of all to the recovery of development efforts.

Together, we are shaping our future but we've still got a lot of work ahead. I respectfully ask for your vote so that we can keep on this course to further improve our way of life. Please vote SIXTO KAIPAT IGISOMAR # 1 on your senatorial ballot, on November 8, 2016.

1 IGISOMAR, Sixto Kaipat

This November, we will be asked to vote for candidates with promises to increase our quality of life. Your Solution Driven Leadership only shares the progress that has been done. To ensure that the work of the people advances forward, we ask for your vote to elect Your Republican Candidates. They are eager to continue championing the cause of the People.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase. Ghillissou. Maraming Salamat Po. Thank you.

Paid for by the CNMI Republican Party – Rufin S. Inos, Treasurer

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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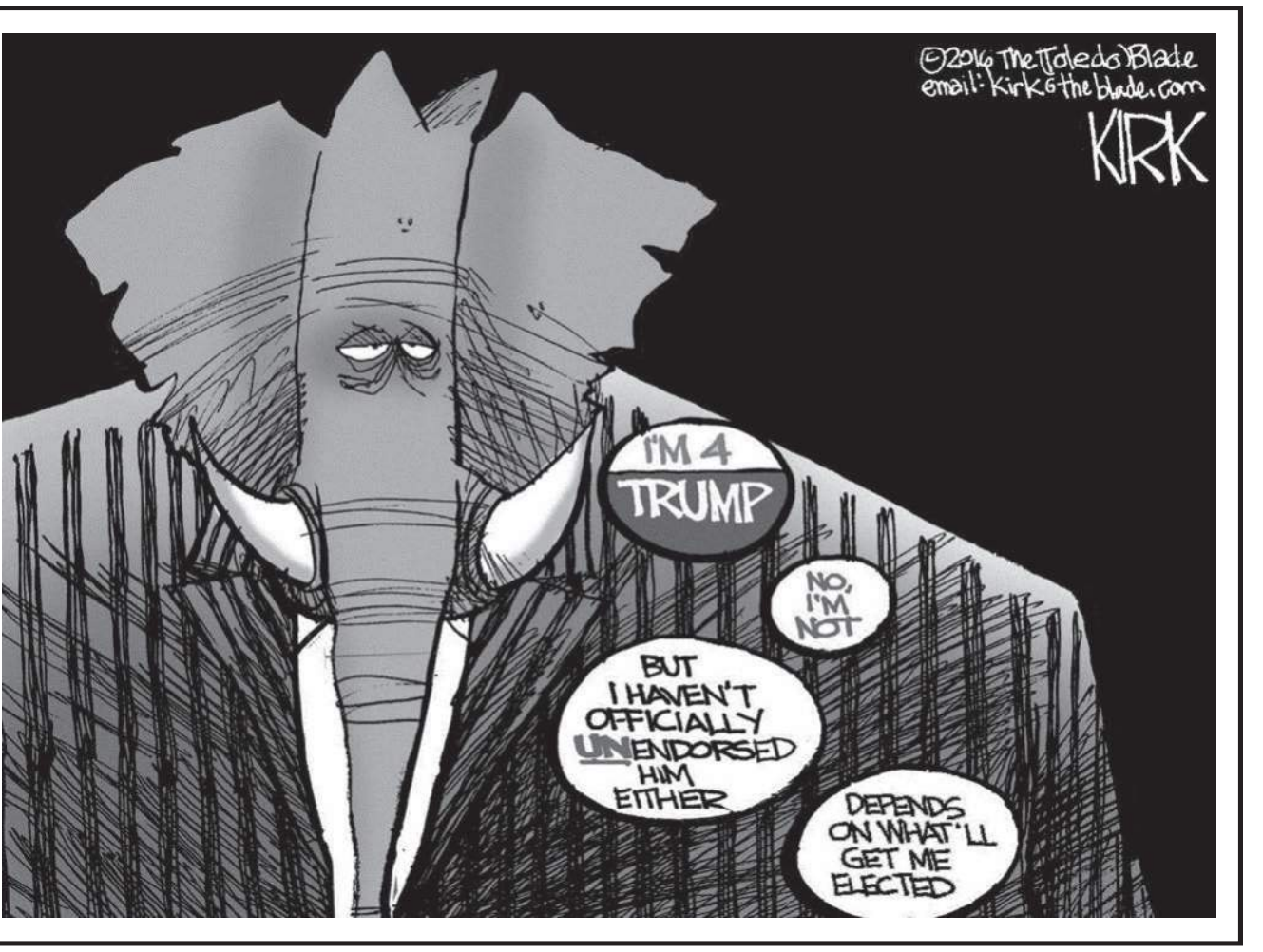

EDITORIAL

Clinton's simple, smart plan to fight poverty could help millions

Hillary Clinton's plan to help alleviate deep poverty in this country, offered in the waning weeks of a brutal presidential election, is a strong example of what attention to detail and mastery of policy can produce. The chief feature is a seemingly simple change to the federal child tax credit. But that one change has the potential to lift more than a million families out of deep poverty, defined as those making less than half the federal poverty threshold — about $10,000 for a single parent with two children.

These families are largely forgotten in the public policy debate. While they are disproportionately families of color, in sheer numbers the majority are white families with no jobs and young children. Their numbers started to rise after 1996, when then-President Bill Clinton vowed to "change welfare as we know it" and ushered in changes that, indeed, shrunk the welfare rolls. But 20 years later, an unwelcome consequence has emerged: More than 7.2 million children now live in extreme poverty.

The $1,000-per-child tax credit that has helped so many families defray the cost of child-rearing is out of reach for many of these very low- or no-income parents. Those with incomes below $3,000 are not eligible, while those making up to $10,000 can claim only a partial refund. Hillary Clinton would scrap those limits, allowing even the poorest families to claim the full credit. Middle-class families would benefit, too: The tax credit would double to $2,000 for children 4 and younger.

The credit has its roots in Minnesota, where Republican congressman Rod Grams first championed a $500-per-child break. President George W. Bush doubled it and expanded eligibility by making it refundable. President Barack Obama lowered the eligibility threshold from $10,000 to $3,000 of income, further broadening its reach. The credit, which phases out at upper-income levels, has proved popular with both parties.

Clinton's proposal could boost incomes for more than 5 million of this nation's poorest families, without creating new agencies or bureaucracies. In this form, it would function almost as a form of guaranteed income, used in many countries as a way to at least soften poverty and once proposed in the U.S. by Republican President Richard Nixon. His plan would have replaced welfare entirely in favor of a small federal income "on which the family itself could build" and in which "outside earnings would be encouraged, not discouraged."

Clinton's plan is a starting point for dealing with intractable, deep poverty and should appeal to thoughtful Republicans. An analysis by the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank, noted that while Clinton's plan did

See CLINTON'S on Next Page

Clinton camp's emails are an affront to Catholics

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

My father's mother was a diehard Democrat. If Ted Bundy and Charles Manson were running on a ticket touting their record on women's rights, they'd have her vote as long as they weren't Republicans. Elsie was the kind of partisan who was incapable of seeing beyond the edges of her voter registration card. I'm sure she's still planning to support Hillary Clinton in November, assuming she can find the polling place nearest to her plot at Holy Cross Cemetery.

Elsie was not alone in her unique, single-minded devotion. Many people are incapable of deviating from lifelong loyalties and biases and will go to their graves rejecting, out of hand, anything the other side has to say on any topic of significance. There are Republicans who wouldn't wear an "I'm With Him" button even if the "Him" in question was Jesus Christ, assuming the Son of God was a registered Democrat. We vote our prejudices, our preferences and our comfort zone.

I never thought I was that kind of voter. I was a registered Democrat for many years, until last March, when I changed my registration to Republican so I could vote for John Kasich in the Pennsylvania primary. Still, I don't feel any different; I'll continue to vote across party lines if the person on the other side of that line is appealing enough. Sorry, Grandma.

But I recently realized that there is one thing that I cannot compromise, and that is my dignity. I will not vote for someone who shows a lack of respect for my principles, my values, my most intimate beliefs. She doesn't need to share them, necessarily. But she cannot show, either through her own actions or by proxy through those who keep her counsel, that she treats them like gum at the bottom of an orthopedic shoe.

I'm Christine, I am a Catholic, and I vote. I've often seen bumper stickers that say, "I'm Pro Gun and I Vote," "I'm Pro Choice and I Vote," "I'm Dead and I Still Vote (In Philadelphia)." I'm embarrassed to say that I regarded them with some elitist disdain, confident that I was a better-educated, more open-minded citizen because I couldn't be a one-issue voter. I've come close when that issue is abortion, and I can count on two fingers the pro-choice candidates I've supported in 37 years of voting. But it was only this past week, when I read the emails that were leaked by Julian Assange, or Vlad of the impeccable pectorals, that flurry of exchanges between John Podesta and other Clinton intimates, that I realized I am a one-issue voter.

And that issue is my faith.

It's a little different from what I've talked about in the past. Sometimes my columns have focused on the duties of Catholic candidates to be consistent with their spiritual formation, as I did when comparing Tim Kaine with Mike Pence, or when I chastised Joe Biden for being pro-choice, or when I tried to get Katie McGinty to fess up about her strong support for abortion rights.

But this time, it's more serious than that, and transcends specific issues. Reading those emails was a revelation to me. There was such disdain for Catholics, such pre-packaged vitriol, such high school bathroom mocking that I thought they were parodies of real conversations. It didn't occur to me that people who were that close to a candidate who has always touted the importance of tolerance would, themselves, be avatars of bigotry.

I don't have the stomach to reproduce the emails in detail, but here is an excerpt from a three-way discussion among Podesta, John Halpin and Jen Palmieri, all close associates of Clinton:

"Many of the most powerful elements of the conservative movement are all Catholic (many converts) from the (Supreme Court) and think tanks to the media and social groups. It's an amazing bastardization of the faith. They must be attracted to the systematic thought and severely backwards gender relations and must be totally unaware of Christian democracy."

Yes, we all know there are far too many Catholics on the Supreme Court. They're going to overturn Roe v. Wade. Just give them another 43 years and you know they'll finally do it, one of these days. Those sneaky papists, they lull you into a sense of security and then, wham! back to the coat hanger.

Excuse my digression. The fact is, the emails were indicative of some very vile biases on the left that have been allowed to fester in the darkness, because bringing them into the open would lose the Democrats some key votes. Not the vote of Grandma Elsie, who was a political lemming, but the support of those Catholics on the fence who were blue-collar, simple folk who loved both the social safety net and unborn babies.

Now, all bets are off.

Unless Clinton disavows the sentiment behind those emails, she is showing very clearly how much value she places on Catholic dignity: none.

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Trump and the surreal

By DICK MEYER
Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is Chief Washington Correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodeDC (www.newsnet5.com/decodedc). Readers may send him email at dick.meyer@scripps.com

Way back in January, when I began to worry and then panic that Donald Trump was going to snag the Republican nomination and a realistic shot at the White House, I went searching for reality checks.

One call I made was to a former colleague who is a decade or so younger than me and started his career in archconservative Republican politics before succumbing to the news business. He assured me that my panic was unwarranted. "Have faith in the American voter," he said.

Chances are now about 95 percent that he was right and Trump will not be elected president.

But my faith in the American voter is shaken and just about shattered. My faith in my ability to make sense of American politics and society — or that American politics makes sense — is smashed. It's disorienting and demoralizing. And I've discovered that lots of people feel the same way: incredulous, bewildered and baffled. "Surreal" is the word I hear the most.

It isn't very comforting that Trump now seems destined for disgrace and defeat. He came close, and that is unfathomable.

This sense of constant disbelief is for many the most disturbing part of Trumpism and the abominable election of 2016, our American annus horribilis.

It is at this point when a good slice of readers will start writing me emails saying something like, "You just don't get it because you're a brainwashed robot of media bias, liberal elite and establishment privilege who can't see that America is a disaster and Trump is the only man with enough nuts and guts to blow it up."

There is no arguing with that kind of thinking, believe me.

The rebuttal will have to be the election itself. It looks like a vast majority of voters will reject Trumpism; the vast majority of those voters will not be members of the rich, establishment, liberal elite; they will be a near perfect sample of America itself.

Most everyone has a theory they use to explain or make sense of Trumpism. I don't know anyone except the cockiest of smart alecks and know-it-alls who find their theories emotionally and intuitively satisfactory. In the end, if you're not in the tank for Trump, you are baffled by how anyone could be.

We in the media elite have tried to explain Trumpism primarily by talking to Trump voters and reporting on the plight of angry white voters. This reporting has been overwhelmingly sympathetic, bending over backwards to overlook or excuse the racist, sexist, homophobic and xenophobic resentments in Trumpdom.

There hasn't been a parallel effort to understand Clinton voters. We assume they fit into the tidy, traditional categories. Minorities tilt heavily Democratic and so do women. Rich, urban, coastal areas go that way, too.

Over the course of the campaign, "angry white voters" have become our most sympathized-with aggrieved group, though it isn't polite to say so. That is deeply unfortunate as there are many groups in trouble in America, white people in the lower and middle classes punished by the post-1980s economy among them. African-Americans and Hispanics have fared worse by any statistical measure, plus they carry the weight of prejudice and discrimination.

We tolerate the resentment of the angry white electorate as their predatory politicians vilify, for example, Black Lives Matter and the gay marriage movement.

To some extent, then, efforts to explain and understand Trumpism are limited by reverse political correctness; the prejudices, resentments and ugly sides of the angry white electorate are overlooked and excused far more than for other groups. This is no way to explain or understand anything.

Of course, only one chunk of Trump's fan base fits the angry white voter bill. There are plenty of rich, educated white people too, and plenty of elected politicians and big donors who excuse and rationalize Trump's foulest deeds and words.

Who can make sense, for example, of family values evangelicals who support Donald Trump, the most exhibitionistic heathen ever to get near the White House? Or of birthers, climate deniers and locker-room talkers?

It isn't for a lack trying that most voters are mystified by zealous Trumpers and his enablers in the Republican Party. In my experience, those who aren't baffled, who are confident they know what's going on, are smug.

Never have I seen so many people in emotional distress over American politics. One friend, a gregarious and very successful extrovert, told me he feels "insular," like he only wants to be around his family and friends lately. Friends and relatives who have never read a poll report in their lives, Google for the latest results twice a day.

This isn't only from worry about Trump winning — it also comes from the sense that their own culture and community have become alien and less comprehensible. This is proving to be deeply unsettling and depressing.

The right personal therapy for this is also the right civic therapy: Find a way to ensure that Donald Trump and his fellow travelers lose big.

President is a role model for children every day

By TRICIA BISHOP
The Baltimore Sun

Tricia Bishop is a columnist for the Baltimore Sun. *Readers may email her at tricia.bishop@baltsun.com*

A couple of weeks ago, I got an email from a parenting site reminding me that my daughter is at an age where she'll start going on more playdates, and before arranging them, I should first ask families whether they have firearms in their homes and, if so, whether the weapons are locked up. That's a good start, but given the recent national discussion, perhaps we should add this for our kids' safety and general well-being: Do you support Donald Trump?

And by that, I mean: Does your household support what he says, does and stands for?

Do you teach your son to force himself upon his female friends at every opportunity?

Do you encourage your daughter to just take it — particularly if the offender is "a star"?

Do you body shame your daughter and her buddies, calling them names like "fat pig," "slob" and "dog"?

Do you tell your kids to belittle, fear and exclude those who don't look or talk like them?

When your children don't get their way, do you encourage them to throw fits, resort to name calling and simply take what they want?

Do you teach your kids that paying their fair share is for the weak?

Do you tell your children that it's OK to lie early and often as long as it's what their friends want to hear?

Do you discuss with your own friends the attractiveness of your daughter's chest and allow them to refer to her as a "piece of ass"?

Will you tell your daughter that she is responsible for her own sexual harassment at work?

Do you emphasize to your daughter that once she passes the age of 35, she will no longer be of interest to men?

Do you show your kids that fidelity isn't important in your marriage?

Do you encourage your children to bully, badger and intimidate others?

Do you tell them to deny, deny, deny when they're caught doing something wrong, rather than take responsibility?

In your household, is homework and preparation for sissies?

Is your family motto: "I know you are, but what am I"?

At the town-hall style presidential debate Sunday, the first question came from a woman concerned about the candidates' effect on children.

"The last debate could have been rated as MA — mature audiences — per TV parental guidelines," she said. "Knowing that educators assign viewing the presidential debates as students' homework, do you feel you're modeling appropriate and positive behavior for today's youth?"

It was a valid question, but one that shouldn't have been limited to their behavior on stage. The U.S. president is every second of every day a role model for the world — most importantly our country's children.

Donald Trump acts like a spoiled brat who's rarely had to suffer any consequences for his conduct. He's the Veruca Salt of presidential nominees, demanding "pink macaroons and a million balloons" — "don't care how, I want it now." I can't imagine a rational parent accepting that kind of conduct from their kids, but millions of Americans apparently dismiss it from their GOP nominee.

Why not? That's what he does, right? His bragging of sexually assaulting women — caught on tape and publicly released last week — is just "locker room talk," he says, repeatedly, even as women come forward with stories of his attacks spanning years. He tried to put his hand up a stranger's skirt on an airplane and grab her breasts, one woman said. Two others say he forcibly kissed them without their consent, and another says he groped her rear end. I expect more will come forward.

But that doesn't seem to bother most of the country, according to a Wall Street Journal poll released this week. Only 41 percent of respondents found his recorded comments "completely unacceptable because it crosses a boundary into describing kissing and touching women in a sexual way without their consent." Another 31 percent thought it was crude, "but typical of how some men talk in private with other men."

Meanwhile, it reminded millions of women of their earliest sexual assaults, which they tweeted to social media maven Kelly Oxford, at her behest. A grown man grabbed a then 12-year-old's crotch on a bus. Same thing happened to an 11-year-old in a store. A 13-year-old was kissed by a synagogue janitor.

My first was in kindergarten, where the boys would capture the girls, drag them into giant concrete pipes on the playground and hold them down to be kissed, while they struggled. "Innocent," I imagine many of you would say. By first grade, one boy had moved on to pulling down girls' tank tops to peer at nonexistent breasts. Later there was the man who exposed himself in a store aisle, followed by various groping and grabbing in high school halls.

Just boys being boys — right?

I would respectfully suggest that those of you who said "yes" have far bigger problems than properly storing guns.

CLINTON'S

From Page 10

not address ways to move such families into the labor market, expansion of the credit "clearly moves us in the right direction and would provide important relief to low-income working families." Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, during his presidential run, proposed raising the child tax credit to $2,500.

What if a new Congress and president started their working relationship in January by finding common ground on a way to help the poorest in this country? What a way that would be to start 2017 and close the book on the annus horribilus that has been 2016.

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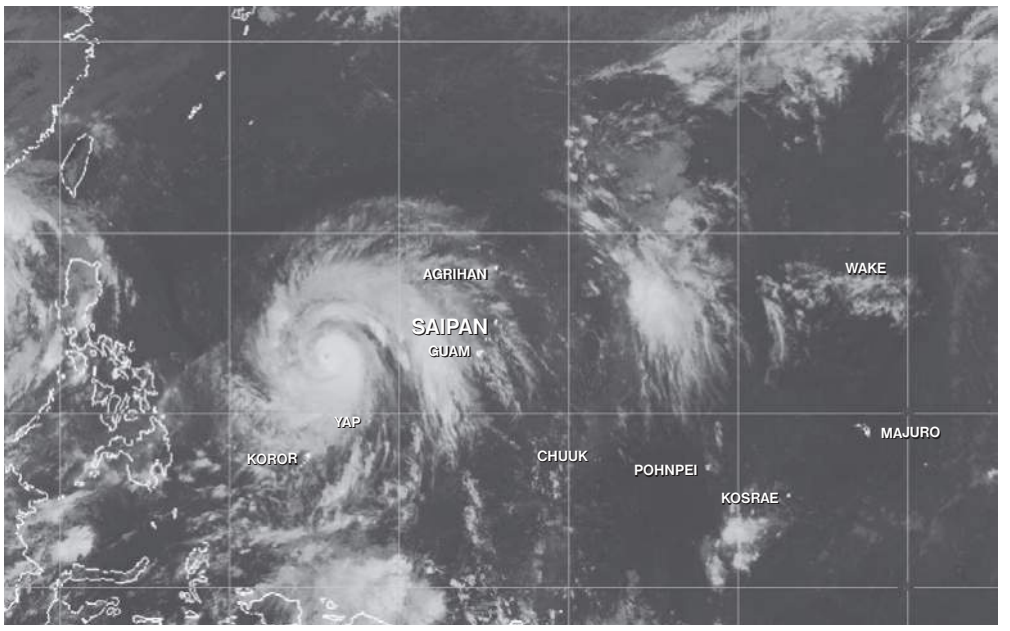
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°	▲89° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:06 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The last band of Typhoon Haima is curling into the Guam and Rota waters at this time. By tonight its influence on our weather will be greatly diminished, limited primarily to southwest and west swell. When it gets far enough away, the clouds should decrease and the thunderstorms cease completely. After this at least a few days of much improved benign weather are on tap. Winds will be at benign levels for mariners by this afternoon. Remaining showers from Haima will bring some fresh to strong gusts this morning. Seas of 5 to 7 feet today will begin to diminish in earnest Tuesday night. By Friday they are expected to reach 3 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▼ ▲
Guam and Rota	Mostly cloudy	82 / 90 °F
Palau	Heavy rain	82 / 88 °F
Yap	Mostly cloudy	81 / 88 °F
Chuuk	High level clouds	79 / 87 °F
Pohnpei	Mostly cloudy	78 / 85 °F
Kosrae	Mostly cloudy	82 / 87 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	82 / 87 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▼ ▲
Auckland	Sunny	53 / 64 °F
Beijing	Sunny	46 / 67 °F
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	76 / 79 °F
Honolulu	Mostly sunny	74 / 82 °F
London	Afternoon clouds	48 / 56 °F
Los Angeles	Morning clouds	58 / 79 °F
Manila	Mostly cloudy	80 / 89 °F
Melbourne	Afternoon clouds	47 / 58 °F
Miami	Partly cloudy	77 / 83 °F
New York	Mostly sunny	66 / 81 °F
Osaka	Scattered clouds	66 / 81 °F
Paris	Cloudy	48 / 62 °F
Pusan	Partly cloudy	59 / 72 °F
Rome	Morning clouds	55 / 66 °F
Salem	High level clouds	49 / 60 °F
San Francisco	Mostly sunny	54 / 68 °F
Seoul	Sunny	45 / 71 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	62 / 78 °F
Washington, DC	Mostly sunny	63 / 83 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		
2:53 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.28 Feet
9:19 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.1 Feet
3:18 PM	LOW TIDE	0.71 Feet
8:41 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.06 Feet

SUNRISE / SUNSET		
Today	6:09 AM	5:55 PM
Wednesday	6:09 AM	5:54 PM
Thursday	6:10 AM	5:54 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM
Saturday	6:10 AM	5:53 PM

MOONRISE / MOONSET		
Today	7:56 PM	7:57 AM
Wednesday	8:53 PM	9:00 AM
Thursday	9:50 PM	10:02 AM
Friday	10:48 PM	11:02 AM
Saturday	11:45 PM	11:57 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	2:10pm	6:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
PR1572	4:35am	6:45am	1, 4
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	7:30am	1:10pm	Daily
7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR1571	9:20pm	3:35am+1	3, 7
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju Air; HX: Hong Kong Airlines; LJ: Jin Air; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

New coconut project aims to boost Pacific coconut industry

NADI, Fiji—A regional initiative to improve the competitiveness of small producers in the Pacific coconut industry, strengthen regional integration and intensify production has been launched by the European Union and the Pacific Community (SPC).

The EURO 3.5 million (FJD 8 million) Coconut Industry Development Project (CIDP) will primarily address regional policy integration, capacity building and strengthening links in the value chain. Its steering committee meets today for the first time, in Nadi, Fiji, with on-ground activities due to commence next month.

The European Union Ambassador to Fiji and the Pacific, H.E. Andrew Jacobs said: ''Across the Pacific Islands, a coconut palm is considered to be the tree of life, contributing to food security, health promotion and sustainable livelihoods. New interest in coconut products, such as virgin coconut oil, is providing opportunities for growth in the coconut industry and the EU is very proud to support the development of the industry in the Pacific."

The three-year initiative will implement pilot projects in selected countries with the aim to improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers locally and provide lessons learnt regionally, contributing to the development of the regional coconut industries. An amount of EURO 1.75 million is available for the pilot projects.

According to the SPC Team Leader for the project, Karen Mapusua, the pilots for Samoa and Vanuatu will result from a competitive selection process that will identify the most appropriate enterprises.

"The national-level mechanism to check Expressions of Interest will ensure that activities align with the respective national development priorities for the sector."

"A Technical Advisory Group comprising an independent panel of experts will assess all submissions based on key eligibility and selection criteria and draw up a shortlist of prospective pilot activities," Mapusua said.

Training and awareness programmes will be also developed along with a manual on Coconut Risks Management and Mitigation for the Pacific Region for farmers, processors and other stakeholders identified in the value chain.

The EU and SPC envisage assisting at least eight government representatives from Pacific Island countries in upgrading and harmonising their national strategies in line with regional policy and there will be opportunities for trade shows.

Another expected benefit of the project will be the creation of a comprehensive database of businesses, projects, farmers' groups and NGOs involved in developing activities in coconut production and processing diversification in 15 Pacific Island countries to facilitate links between value chain actors, for example, connecting growers with traders, and buyers with exporters.

This latest project will complement other work by SPC, through its Centre for Pacific Crops and Trees, and partners Bioversity International, the International Coconut Genetic Resources Network (COGENT) and governments in the region to upgrade and broaden the new South-Pacific International Coconut Genebank, to conserve Pacific coconut diversity and livelihoods. ***(PR)***

Halloween fun at American Memorial Park

This Halloween the community is invited to stop by American Memorial Park for some Halloween fun. From 4pm to 7pm on Oct. 31 the park will be hosting trick or treating, face painting, and even a World War II-themed costume contest. Prizes will be given for the top 3 WWII-themed costumes. To participate in the contest, please be sure to check-in with staff or volunteers by 6pm and winners will be announced at 6:30pm.

If your business or community group would like to be a part of the event and give out treats or lead a Halloween-themed activity, please register with Jovanna Mafnas Moses at phpsaipan@gmail.com or call 234-7207 extension 2007. ***(AMP)***

DESTINATION ENHANCEMENT
The Marianas Visitors Authority and Tinian Mayor's Office completed repair and renovation of pavilions at Taga Beach in September 2016, and toilet repairs are also underway. Taga Beach is one the most-frequented visitor sites on Tinian, and its repairs are part of the MVA's ongoing destination enhancement on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-004

Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Station Service Generator Sets at Power Plants 1 and 4

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced contractors, including their local authorized representatives for the Supply, Installation & Commissioning of one (1) each 750 kW Diesel Generating Set at CUC Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base and one (1) each 200 kW Diesel Generating Set at CUC Power Plant No. 4, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall provide and pay for all labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature, and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the Diesel Generating Sets and work within the specified time frame.

CUC intends to select one proposer to negotiate the final scope of work and enter into a contract agreement that best fit CUC's station service power supply requirements at Power Plant No. 1 and 4.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **October 27, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 and 4 facilities will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal, though it is not a mandatory requirement.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID.

One (1) original and Five (6) hard copies and 1 Compact Disc (CD) of the entire submission in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-004 – Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Station Service Generator Sets at Power plants 1 and 4"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on November 18, 2016.** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 31, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, Purchasing Assistant via email address - Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation APCM/PM via email address - venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Fourteenth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a BOE Work Session on Wednesday, October 19, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Federal Programs Office Conference Room in Building 1203, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA[1]

I. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments[2]

III. New Business
1. Commissioner of Education
   a. Questionnaire
   b. Review of Applications
   c. Others

IV. Executive Session[3]
1. Legal Updates
2. Personnel/Certification
3. Other matters

V. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting

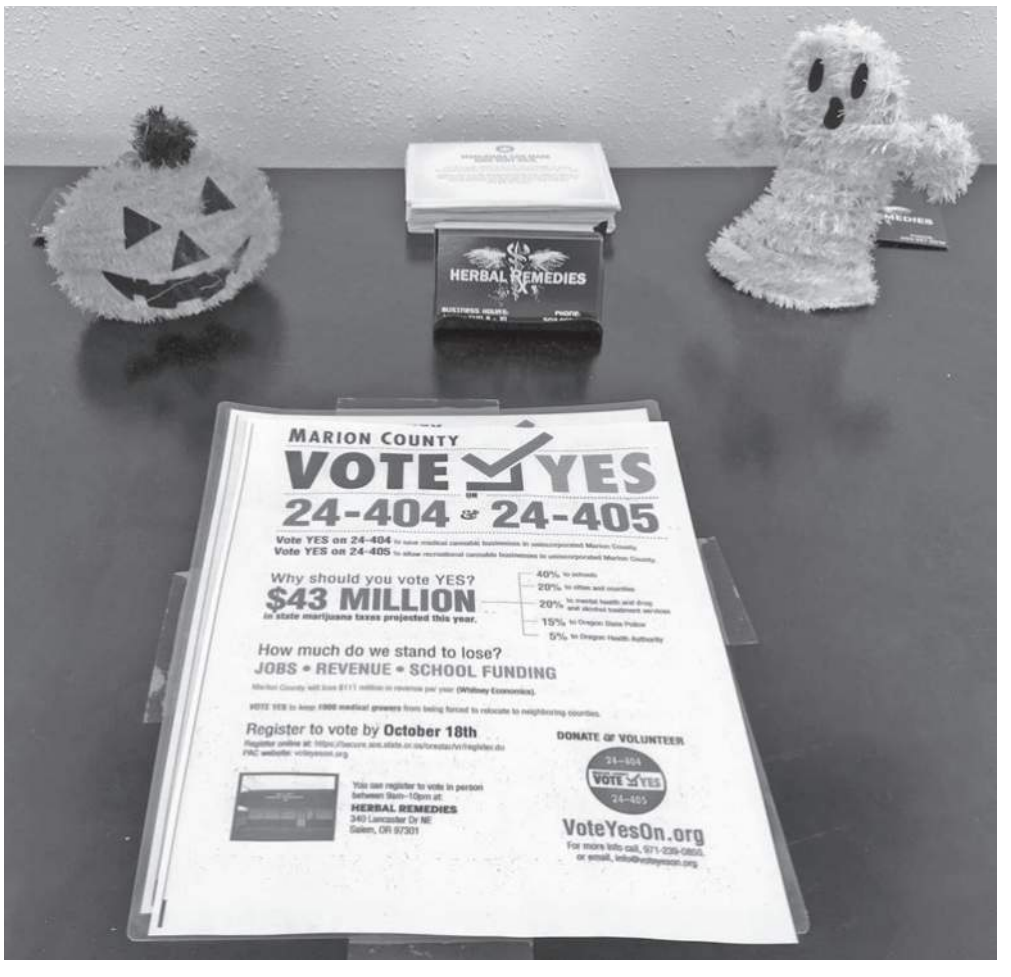
VI. Adjournment

[1] In the event that the items on the agenda are not completed, the meeting will recess and reconvene on the following day or at the most expeditious date and time determined by the Board.
[2] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[3] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Business

Investors anxious as Oregonians again vote on marijuana

By ANDREW SELSKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS



AP
A flyer at a marijuana dispensary in Salem, Oregon, on Oct. 11, 2016 urges voters to approve marijuana businesses in unincorporated areas of Marion County.

Last year, Golden Leaf Holdings, a leading cannabis company, paid $3.3 million for almost 100 acres of land in Oregon to build a marijuana growing, processing and research site.

The future looked bright: Oregon voters had legalized recreational marijuana in 2014. But Measure 91 gave counties and towns the opportunity to opt out and ban pot businesses.

Days after Golden Leaf signed the papers on the property in Marion County near the town of Aurora, the county banned marijuana businesses in unincorporated areas. So did about 100 other towns and counties.

"That shut us out completely out of the recreational market, which was our original strategy," said Beau Whitney, a Golden Leaf vice president.

Now, Golden Leaf has another chance. Marion County is one of about 50 Oregon towns and counties that will decide in the Nov. 8 election whether to opt back into the marijuana business, according to the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which regulates and licenses the industry.

Other states across America are also grappling with the issue of how to deal with the emerging marijuana business. Recreational or medical marijuana measures are on ballots in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada and North Dakota.

At Golden Leaf's property, in the Willamette Valley between Portland and Salem, valuable machines to process marijuana into potent oils are mostly idle, used only for medical marijuana. One greenhouse was filled with rows of robust pot plants, but about 20 other greenhouses stood empty under rainy skies on a recent afternoon.

Whitney said Marion County will lose $7.5 million in employees' wages per year and in company spending for infrastructure development if voters say no to marijuana, forcing Golden Leaf to move elsewhere.

"We just want a level playing field," Whitney said. "We're just looking for reasonable regulation."

Marion County Commissioner Sam Brentano said he doesn't want the county overrun by pot businesses attracted by its rich soil and highway access, and that he has received complaints about odor, noise and lights.

One recent evening, 16 backers of pro-pot ballot measures gathered in an anteroom of a medical marijuana store. Some volunteered to staff a phone bank. Others said they would hand out flyers to boost voter awareness of the ballot measures.

United Airlines systems outage causes delays globally

Passengers on United Airlines reported long delays after the latest in a long line of technology problems at the nation's biggest carriers.

United said Friday that it had fixed the overnight issue, yet hours later the airline still could not explain what went wrong or even how many flights were canceled or delayed.

Tracking service FlightStats Inc. said in late afternoon that United had cancelled 10 flights—not an unusual number—and delayed more than 380. However, those numbers don't include United Express flights, which are outsourced to smaller carriers.

Timing helped United. The outage spanned a late-night period when few U.S. flights were operating, and United reported it was fixed before the wave of morning departures.

United responded on Twitter to passengers who experienced delays or problems with the airline's website. The airline tweeted that it was having problems with its weight-reporting system.

Some passengers travelling late Thursday and early Friday took to social media to complain about delays as long as six hours.

United spokeswoman Maddie King said that overnight the airline "experienced a system issue causing some flights delays." She said the problem was fixed by 4 a.m. Eastern time, although there could be lingering brief delays on Friday.

Asked about the cause of the outage, King said, "We are still working to determine that."

In August, Delta Air Lines suffered a computer breakdown after a power outage in its operations center. The airline canceled more than 2,000 flights over three days. In July, Southwest Airlines also canceled more than 2,000 flights after an outage that it blamed on a failed network router. United and American Airlines both suffered computer-system problems in summer 2015. ***(AP)***

Yellen: Slow recovery confounds economists' expectations

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said Friday that the slow recovery from the Great Recession has surprised economists, confounding long-held beliefs about growth and inflation. Her remarks could help explain why the Fed has been reluctant to raise U.S. interest rates.

Speaking to an economic conference at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Yellen did not address the Fed's timetable for rates. The central bank is widely expected to resume raising rates in December, a reflection of an improved economy.

Yellen said sluggish worldwide growth would likely keep global interest rates low, making it harder for central banks to combat the next recession with rate cuts.

As with the aftermath of the Great Recession, Yellen noted that economists have at times been baffled by the economy's refusal to comply with their expectations - during the Great Depression of the 1930s, for example, and the "stagflation" of the 1970s when high unemployment co-existed with high inflation.

The aftermath of the 2007-2009 crisis has "revealed limits in economists' understanding of the economy," the Fed chair suggested. Tumbling home prices reduced consumers' willingness to spend more than economists had envisioned. And a steady decline in the unemployment rate has failed to lift wages and inflation as much as economic models would indicate.

Yellen's comments amounted to an implicit defense of the Fed's aggressive efforts to boost the American economy in the aftermath of the recession. The Fed kept short-term rates near zero for seven years and launched three bond-buying programs to try to shrink longer-term rates, too, to stimulate borrowing and spending.

Yellen said the sluggish recovery suggests that "it is even more important for policymakers to act quickly and aggressively in response to a recession" and that policymakers might need to provide more stimulus "during recoveries than would be called for under the traditional view."

Don't want to lose overly friendly vendor's business

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: A vendor who does business with our company keeps trying to be my friend. "Karen" frequently invites me to have lunch, join her for happy hour or attend various social events. She texts me at random times to ask if she can drop by to say hello. Apparently, she just wants to be my pal.

I've got plenty of friends and a very busy job, so I have no desire to start hanging out with Karen. Although I still want to use her as a vendor, this constant intrusion into my life has become quite irritating. If I know she's in the building, I leave my office to avoid seeing her. How can I get Karen to back off without hurting her feelings?

A: To discourage this unwanted attention, you will have to establish a definite boundary between your personal and professional life. But first you must decide exactly what sort of relationship you want with Karen.

Is an occasional lunch acceptable or do you prefer to see her only in business meetings? Would you like to eliminate all drop-in visits or just reduce their frequency? Once you've defined your desired level of interaction, then you need to clearly draw that line.

When Karen sends a "drop by" text, you can say that you're busy or simply not reply. If she shows up unannounced, pleasantly explain that you're completely swamped with work. And when she issues social invitations, you must politely, but directly, declare them off limits.

For example: "Karen, I appreciate your inviting me to see the art exhibit. However, my life outside of work is very busy, so I really don't have time for more social activities. It was nice of you to think of me, though." If the invites continue, just repeat this response.

If you're open to having coffee or lunch, attach those events to a business visit. As long as you treat Karen like a valued work colleague, you will have met your professional obligations. Beyond that, you are not responsible for her feelings.

Q: As a corporate videographer, I am constantly juggling multiple projects. My plate is always so full that I feel like I'm drowning. I enjoy what I do, but I'm tired of taking work home every night.

Although our company is very profitable, my repeated requests for another videographer are always denied. Quitting isn't an option, because these jobs are hard to find. How do I convince management that I need some help?

A: Like many overworked folks, you may have made the mistake of presenting the problem in personal terms, saying things like "I'm completely stressed out" or "I have to work every weekend." But if you want to get management's attention, you must clearly explain how this staff shortage is adversely affecting the business.

Given that most managers are reluctant to add people to the payroll, another useful strategy is to request temporary help. Hiring a contract videographer on an as-needed basis might just solve your problem. And if you rack up enough contract hours, eventually the cost may justify a permanent employee.

Nation

N. Carolina GOP office burned, graffiti sprayed nearby

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. (AP)—A local Republican Party office in North Carolina was torched by a flammable device and someone spray-painted an anti-GOP slogan referring to "Nazi Republicans" on a nearby wall, authorities said Sunday.

A bottle filled with flammable liquid was thrown through the window of the Orange County Republican Party headquarters overnight, according to a news release from the town of Hillsborough. The substance ignited and damaged the interior before burning out. No one was injured.

On Sunday afternoon, the walls of the multi-room office were covered in black char, and a couch against one wall had been burned down to its springs. Shattered glass covered the floor, and melted campaign yard signs showed warped lettering.

AP

Melted campaign signs are seen at the Orange County Republican Headquarters in Hillsborough, NC on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016.

The news release from authorities said an adjacent building was spray-painted with the words: "Nazi Republicans leave town or else." The graffiti had been covered in paint by late afternoon.

Another business owner discovered the damage Sunday morning. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is working with local investigators.

State GOP executive director Dallas Woodhouse said people sometimes work afterhours, and he felt lucky that no one was there at the time. He said the bottle appeared to have landed on or near the couch where volunteers sometimes take naps.

"They are working around the clock. It is a miracle that nobody was killed," he said in an interview, calling the fire "political terrorism."

He said Republican offices around the state were re-examining their security.

The violent act in the key battleground state was condemned by public figures across the political spectrum.

Hillary Clinton, the Democratic nominee for president said on Twitter that the attack "is horrific and unacceptable. Very grateful that everyone is safe."

Republican nominee Donald Trump blamed the act on Democrats in a Tweet and also he encouraged local Republicans, saying: "With you all the way, will never forget. Now we have to win. Proud of you all!"

At a news conference, Woodhouse urged Republicans to respond peacefully by turning out to vote in November. He said he'd received messages of support from Democrats.

Orange County GOP chairman Daniel Ashley told reporters that no one had previously made violent threats against the office several miles from the town's historic square. The GOP office is several doors down from a shuttered ice rink in what was once a frontier-themed amusement park that is now a retail complex known as The Shops at Daniel Boone.

Tom Stevens, mayor of the town about 40 miles northwest of Raleigh, said that it was fortunate the fire didn't burn the office and other adjacent buildings that are decades old to the ground.

Muslim woman settles in at Vermont military college

NORTHFIELD, Vt. (AP)—Despite being the first woman allowed to wear a Muslim headscarf beneath her military uniform at the nation's oldest private military college, Sana Hamze says she doesn't feel like a pioneer. Her focus is on learning details of life as a "rook" at Vermont's Norwich University, in the school's Corps of Cadets and not running afoul of the many rules and customs new students are required to master.

As do all aspiring members of the corps, she's learned to walk at the side of the pathways, make square corners when turning, line up before eating and sleep when she is told. Like her freshman classmates, she yearns for the time when her class is "recognized" and they become official members of the Corps of Cadets and the rook restrictions end.

But the uniform for the 18-year-old student from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is a little different. Unlike other female members of the corps, Hamze wears her Muslim hijab, or head covering, beneath.

As part of her effort to fulfill her lifelong dream of continuing her family's legacy of military and public service while staying true to her devout religious beliefs, she asked for a uniform accommodation to wear the hijab when she was applying to colleges earlier this year. Norwich, one of the nation's six senior military colleges, agreed to make the accommodation.

"I don't really see it as me changing the world or changing the U.S., even," she said during an interview on the Norwich parade ground. "I just kind of see it as the school allowing an American student to practice her faith while also training to be an officer in the Navy."

Hamze's great-grandmother was in the Air Force and two of her grandparents met while serving in the Navy in Puerto Rico. Her father is a police officer in Florida.

Hamze said that she has been subject to hostile stares and comments while wearing her hijab in public, but never at Norwich, where she is not the first Muslim to attend the school, or in Vermont. The hostility to her faith hasn't made her bitter or curbed her dream of serving her country.

"It doesn't scare me because I know what I'm doing is not to harm anyone," she said. "I know what I'm doing is to actually protect the country. I'm joining the task force that protects this country."

Hamze's college plans made headlines this spring when The Citadel—the Charleston, South Carolina, military college she had hoped to attend—refused to change its uniform policy to accommodate her hijab. Norwich was quick to agree to make the accommodation, which will also apply to Jewish men who wish to wear a yarmulke along with their uniforms.

Norwich, located in the town of Northfield, about 10 miles south of the Vermont capital of Montpelier, is the nation's oldest private military college. Last spring, it hosted a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Reserve Officers Training Program.

Of its total on-campus student body of about 2,250, about two-thirds of students are in the Corps of Cadets, its military program, while the rest are civilians who don't participate in military training.

Ali Shahidy, a Muslim senior civilian student at Norwich from Afghanistan, said he had met Hamze and attended a religious service with her at a nearby mosque, but did not know her well. Nevertheless, he thinks she's a leader even if she doesn't see herself that way.

"I am definitely sure there will be students in the future like her (and) it will encourage other Muslim students who have the ambition to serve their country in the military yet are concerned about their look and their hijab," he said.

Pence says GOP ticket will 'absolutely' accept vote outcome

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mike Pence said Sunday he and Donald Trump will abide by "the will of the American people" on Election Day, and suggested that Trump's claim of a 'rigged" election stems from his belief the media is ganging up on him.

"We will absolutely accept the results of the election," Pence said in television interviews. He said Trump's complaint, articulated from the campaign stage and across Twitter but without evidence, reflects fatigue with "the obvious bias in the national media. That's where the sense of a rigged election goes here."

Not long after Pence said that, Trump partly undermined his comments.

"The election is absolutely being rigged by the dishonest and distorted media pushing Crooked Hillary—but also at many polling places," Trump tweeted. "SAD."

Pence

Pence's words were the latest attempt by Trump's surrogates to attempt to explain that some things the GOP presidential nominee has said and tweeted are not what he meant.

Much of that cleanup duty has fallen to Pence little more than three weeks before the Nov. 8 vote. Trump is struggling to shift the focus away from mounting accusations that he sexually assaulted women in ways similar to what he is recorded describing on a recently released video. Trump says all of the accusations are fabricated.

Several of Trump's unfounded claims—such as the one Saturday that Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton was on drugs at the most recent debate and his call for drug testing before the next—also overshadowed the release over the weekend of more emails hacked from accounts of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta.

Some showed the campaign worrying whether Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., might endorse Sen. Bernie Sanders in the party's primary, and wrestling with how to respond to revelations about Clinton's private email use. The emails also show aides lining up materials to respond to fresh accusations from a woman who accused Bill Clinton of raping her decades ago. The former president denied the accusation, which was never adjudicated by a criminal court.

ACROSS THE NATION

Navy man faces charges in truck crash that killed 4

SAN DIEGO (AP)—A member of the U.S. Navy is facing DUI and vehicular manslaughter charges after the pickup truck he was driving plunged off a San Diego bridge, killing four people and injuring nine at a festival below. Richard Anthony Sepolio, 25, who was stationed at the naval base on Coronado Island across the bay from San Diego, was alone in the truck Saturday afternoon when he lost control and fell 60 feet onto a vendor's booth at Chicano Park, California Highway Patrol Officer Jake Sanchez said. Sepolio remained hospitalized Sunday with serious injuries. His rank or job description was not immediately available. "It's horrible. It's horrific. We had innocent people down here having a good time, and now they're gone," Sanchez said after the crash.

Authorities: 2-year-old killed by truck driven by relative

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP)—Authorities say a Louisiana toddler is dead after she was hit by a pickup truck driven by a relative at a Pennsylvania mobile home park. PennLive.com reports state police say the 2-year-old was on or along a street Saturday evening at a mobile home park in Linden, Pennsylvania, when she was struck by the truck's undercarriage. Authorities say she was carried about 20 feet. State police say the driver had been leaving a parking space and was unaware of the girl's location due to the height of the truck. Authorities on Sunday identified the victim as Shelby Folse, of Houma, Louisiana. The relationship between the girl and the driver wasn't immediately known. Authorities say the driver isn't her father.

Asia

Grief after Thai king's death spills into anger

BANGKOK (AP)—A Thai woman accused of insulting the country's late king was forced to kneel before his portrait outside a police station on the tourist island of Samui as several hundred people bayed for an apology.

The woman's arrest and public shaming on Sunday was the latest of several such incidents since King Bhumibol Adulyadej died last week after a reign of 70 years, plunging Thailand into intense mourning.

Two police officers led 43-year-old Umaporn Sarasat to a picture of Bhumibol in front of Bophut police station on Samui, where she knelt and prayed, both on the way into the station and the way out.

The crowd, some of whom held aloft portraits of the revered monarch, jeered when she first appeared. A line of police officers linked arms to keep them from surging forward.

AP

In this image made from video taken on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016, Umaporn Sarasat, 43, pays respects in front of a portrait of Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej in Koh Samui, Thailand.

It is likely that Sarasat, a small business owner, who is alleged to have posted disrespectful comments online, will face charges of insulting the monarchy.

"We are going to proceed with the case as best we can," district police chief Thewes Pleumsud told the crowd. "I understand your feelings. You came here out of loyalty to his Majesty. Don't worry, I give you my word."

Authorities are also urging calm as social media throbs with criticism of people who aren't wearing black and white clothing to mourn the revered monarch and some arch-royalists take to reprimanding people in public. A government spokesman said some Thais can't afford mourning clothes and urged tolerance.

There have been reports of price gouging as demand for such clothing has surged since Bhumibol's death on Thursday.

Tens of thousands of Thais have descended on the Grand Palace in Bangkok where Bhumibol's body is being kept, and a year of mourning has been declared by the government.

Several foreign governments have warned citizens traveling in Thailand to avoid behavior that could be interpreted as festive, disrespectful or disorderly.

On Friday, police and soldiers on the Thai resort island of Phuket dispersed a mob of several hundred people seeking a confrontation with a man they believed insulted the king.

Video showed the crowd blocking the road outside a soy milk shop and waving placards with slurs such as "buffalo," a local slang word for stupidity. Some shouted for the man to come out.

Thailand has draconian lese majeste laws that impose stiff prison sentences for actions or writings regarded as derogatory toward the monarch or his family.

The operator of Thailand's main cable TV network has blocked foreign news broadcasts deemed insensitive to the monarchy since Bhumibol's death.

Duterte acknowledges he can't concede sea claims to China

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president acknowledged Sunday that he can be impeached if he concedes his country's territorial claims in the South China Sea in talks with President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders this week in Beijing.

President Rodrigo Duterte said in a speech before leaving for Brunei and China that while he will not bargain the Philippines' territorial claims, "there will be no hard impositions" as he tries to renew his nation's strained friendship with China and intensify two-way trade and investment.

Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, who has done extensive studies on the territorial conflict, warned last week that conceding the Philippines' sovereign rights in the disputed waters is a ground for the president's impeachment.

Carpio said that China may ask the Duterte administration to acknowledge Chinese sovereignty in contested South China Sea territories before agreeing to any business deals or joint exploration of potential sea resources.

Asked to react to Carpio's warning, Duterte said he agreed with him.

"He is correct. I would be impeached," the president said at a news conference at the international airport in the southern city of Davao before embarking on his two-nation trip.

"I said we cannot barter which is not ours (or what) belongs to the Filipino people," said Duterte, who is a lawyer and once served as a government prosecutor. "I cannot be the sole authorized agent, for that is not allowed under the constitution."

Duterte, who was Davao's mayor before assuming the presidency in June, has walked a tightrope in trying to mend damaged relations with China and defending his country's claims in the disputed South China Sea.

In July, an international arbitration tribunal ruled that China's massive claims to the sea on historical grounds were not valid under a 1982 U.N. treaty, handing a landmark victory to the Philippines, which had filed a complaint against Beijing under Duterte's predecessor.

The tribunal in The Hague specifically ruled that China has violated the rights of Filipino fishermen, who have been blocked by the Chinese coast guard from fishing in the disputed Scarborough Shoal, off the northwest Philippines.

"The international decision will be taken up," Duterte said. But he added without elaborating that "there will be no hard impositions." When the tribunal's July 12 decision was announced, Duterte did not make any celebratory remarks that he said could offend China, which has ignored the decision as a sham and campaigned to discourage governments from recognizing the ruling.

Duterte has not pressed the Chinese government to comply with the decision.

Labeling himself a left-wing politician, Duterte has announced step to scale back the Philippines' military engagements with the U.S., including his opposition to joint patrols with the U.S. Navy in the South China Sea and joint combat exercises with American forces. He has lashed out at President Barack Obama for criticizing his deadly anti-drug campaign, but has reached out to China and Russia.

Jia Jia, world's oldest-ever panda in captivity, dies at 38

HONG KONG (AP)—The world's oldest-ever panda in captivity was euthanized Sunday at the Hong Kong theme park where she lived because her health had deteriorated.

Ocean Park said in a statement that a veterinarian euthanized 38-year-old Jia Jia to prevent further suffering and for ethical reasons.

Guinness World Records recognized Jia Jia as the oldest giant panda to live in captivity. The average lifespan for a panda in the wild is 18 to 20 years, while in captivity it's 30 years, according to Guinness.

Born in the wild, Jia Jia was taken to live at a wildlife reserve's breeding center in central China's Sichuan province in 1980, when she was around 2 years old.

She and another panda, An An, were given to Hong Kong as a gift from Beijing in 1999, on the second anniversary of the city's handover from Britain to China.

Pandas, a beloved symbol of China, were long considered one of the world's most endangered animals, although last month a leading international group lowered its classification to "vulnerable."

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature cited conservation efforts that helped the wild panda population jump to 1,864 in 2014 from 1,596 in 2004. However, the Chinese government rejected the group's decision, saying the panda's status was no less serious because its natural habitats have been splintered by human and natural causes.

Jia Jia, who celebrated her birthday in August, had shown signs of poor health in her old age, including high blood pressure and arthritis, which required regular medication. Over the past two weeks, her condition had worsened significantly, with her weight falling as she stopped eating.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Buses collide head-on in central Pakistan, killing 24 people

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP)—Two passenger buses collided head-on in central Pakistan on Monday, killing 24 people and injuring 69, officials said. The accident, which occurred on a dangerous curve in Khanpur town in Rahim Yar Khan district, was likely caused by speeding, said police official Jamshid Shah. Several children, college students and women were among the victims, Shah said. He said police and rescue officials were using cutters and to retrieve bodies trapped inside the two buses. Dr. Tasleem Kamran at a government hospital said the injured were being treated and that several were reported to be in critical condition. "We have declared an emergency. We desperately need blood," she said. Local TV footage showed ambulances and rescue officials rushing the injured persons to hospitals. Before the rescuers and police arrived, resident Waqar Ahmad said townspeople, who heard the sound of the crash, arrived at the scene and started pulling the victims out of the wreckage. "We though some bomb has exploded," Ahmad said.

8 killed after bridge collapses near Indonesia's Bali island

BALI, Indonesia (AP)—At least eight people were killed and 30 others injured Sunday after a small suspension bridge crowded with people returning from temple prayers collapsed near the Indonesian resort island of Bali, officials said. The bridge, linking the small islands of Lembongan and Ceningan off of Bali, collapsed Sunday evening, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, a spokesman for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency. Nugroho said the eight victims who died have been identified, including three children aged 3 to 9. He said two of the injured were in serious condition, while the others suffered minor injuries. Initial reports indicate that there were no foreigners among the victims, Nugroho said.

Floods kill 24 in Vietnam as Typhoon Sarika looms

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Floods triggered by heavy rains have killed 24 people and left four others missing in central Vietnam, disaster officials said Monday, as Typhoon Sarika approaches after leaving at least two people dead and displacing more than 150,000 in the Philippines. In the worst-hit province of Quang Binh, 18 people died and authorities are searching for three others who are missing, disaster official Tran Le Dang Hung said. Six people died and one was reported missing in three other central provinces. "We are worried. We have instructed district governments to outline plans for evacuating people from high-risk areas to cope with the Typhoon," Hung said by telephone from Quang Binh.

World

Iraqi forces launch military push to drive IS from Mosul

KHAZER, Iraq (AP)—Iraqi government and Kurdish forces, backed by U.S.-led coalition air and ground support, launched coordinated military operations early on Monday as the long-awaited fight to wrest the northern city of Mosul from Islamic State fighters got underway.

Convoys of Iraqi, Kurdish and U.S. forces could be seen moving east of Mosul into the early hours of the day. Along the front line, U.S.-led coalition airstrikes sent plumes of smokes into the air and heavy artillery rounds could be heard.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the start of the operations on state television, launching the country on its toughest battle since American troops left nearly five years ago.

Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, has been under IS rule for more than two years and is still home to more than a million civilians according to U.N. estimates.

"These forces that are liberating you today, they have one goal in Mosul which is to get rid of Daesh and to secure your dignity. They are there for your sake," al-Abadi said, addressing the city's residents and using the Arabic language acronym for the Islamic State group.

"God willing, we shall win," he added, dressed in the uniform of the elite counterterrorism forces and flanked by military commanders.

The push to retake Mosul will be the biggest military operation in Iraq since American troops left in 2011 and, if successful, the strongest blow yet to the Islamic State. A statement on Al-Abadi's website pledged the fight for the city would lead to the liberation of all Iraqi territory from the militants this year.

In Washington, Defense Secretary Ash Carter called the launch of the operation to liberate Mosul "a decisive moment in the campaign" to deliver a lasting defeat to IS. He said the U.S. and other members of the international coalition stand ready to support Iraqi and Kurdish forces.

Iraqi forces have been massing around the city in recent days, including elite special forces that are expected to lead the charge into the city, as well as Kurdish forces, Sunni tribal fighters, federal police and Shiite militia forces.

South of Mosul, Iraqi military units are based at the sprawling Qayara air base, but to the city's east, men are camped out in abandoned homes as the tens of thousands of troops massed around the city have overwhelmed the few military bases in the area.

Kurdish forces are stationed to the north and east of Mosul, a mostly Sunni city that has long been a center of insurgent activity and anti-central government sentiment after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. Iraqi officials have warned that the Mosul operation has been rushed before a political agreement has been set for how the city will be governed after IS.

Lt. Col. Amozhgar Taher with Iraq's Kurdish forces, also known as the peshmerga, said his men would only move to retake a cluster of mostly Christian and Shabak villages east of Mosul and would not enter the city itself due to their concern for "sectarian sensitivities."

"To eliminate the threat we must eliminate (IS) from Mosul," Taher said at a makeshift base in an abandoned house along the frontline some 30 kilometers (19 miles) east of Mosul.

The city fell to IS fighters during the militants' June 2014 blitz that left nearly a third of Iraq in the extremists' hands and plunged the country into its most severe crisis since the U.S.-led invasion. After seizing Mosul, IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi visited the city to declare an Islamic caliphate that at one point covered nearly a third of Iraq and Syria.

AP

A Peshmerga convoy drives towards a frontline in Khazer, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) east of Mosul, Iraq, Monday, Oct. 17, 2016.

Brexit costs UK its spot among top 5 investment destinations

LONDON (AP)—Britain has lost its place as one of the top five investment destinations in the wake of the country's decision to leave the European Union, according to a survey released Monday.

In a half-yearly report of business executives, consulting firm EY said uncertainties related to the Brexit vote are discouraging potential investors, particularly from Europe, from planning deals in the country.

According to EY, Britain is now ranked seventh in terms of investment destination over the coming year, behind the United States, China, Germany, Canada, France and Japan. In the previous survey in April, Britain was second.

Steve Krouskos, EY's global head of transactions, said there was a "knee-jerk" response, particularly in the immediate aftermath of the June 23 vote, but that he is optimistic that Britain's ranking will improve by the time of the next survey in six months.

"In the longer term, we would expect the U.K. to bounce back as a top M&A destination of choice but the short-term uncertainty is giving investors pause for thought," he said. "I don't see a blackout coming."

His confidence can to an extent be illustrated by the fact that deal-making has not so far dried up since the Brexit vote—Britain has seen $88 billion worth of deals excluding real estate, EY said, citing data from sector specialist Dealogic. That's in line with 2013 and 2014 but below the $255 billion registered in the same period of 2015, which was inflated by the mega-merger of beer companies SAB Miller and Anheuser Busch InBev.

British firms, according to EY, continue to be attractive to foreign buyers, especially high intellectual property companies in industrials, technology and healthcare. And Britain remains the third most sought-after country for investment among executives surveyed in the U.S.—that's important as the U.S. typically accounts for around 40 percent of global M&A activity.

The biggest deal since the Brexit vote was the 24 billion pound takeover ($31 billion at the time) of British technology firm ARM Holdings by Japan's SoftBank Group in July—a month or so after the Brexit vote. Another major deal was the near $8 billion takeover of Formula One's commercial arm by American company Liberty Media.

US, UK say support is weak for military action against Syria

LONDON (AP)—The United States and Britain on Sunday acknowledged the Western world's weak support for any military action against Syria's government as they sought ways to pressure President Bashar Assad and his chief backer, Russia, to halt a deadly offensive in Aleppo. They tried to present it as a possibility, nevertheless.

After a meeting of 11 governments opposing Assad's rule, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson each insisted all options were on the table. But their stark explanations about the danger of resorting to military force appeared to rule out such a move.

The result was a somewhat schizophrenic threat that was unlikely to scare Assad's government or Russia as they move to crush the last rebel-held areas of Aleppo, Syria's largest city.

"When a great power is involved in a fight like this, as Russia has chosen to be by going there and then putting its missiles in place in order to threaten people against military action, it raises the stakes of confrontation," Kerry said after the meeting in London.

He said no one should be "lighting a fire" under a larger sectarian war in the Middle East or one drawing in superpowers against one another.

Johnson said Britain wanted to "ratchet up" pressure on Assad, Russia and Iran.

"No option is, in principle, off the table," he told reporters.

Quickly expanding his answer, he added: "Be in no doubt that these so-called military options are extremely difficult and there is, to put it mildly, a lack of political appetite in most European capitals and certainly in the West for that kind of solution at present."

"So we've got to work with the tools we have," he said. "The tools we have are diplomatic."

The gathering in London came amid mounting international frustration with the 5Ω year conflict, which has killed as many as a half-million people, sparked Europe's worst refugee crisis since World War II and enabled Islamic State militants to emerge as a global terror threat.

Kerry on Saturday launched a new diplomatic process with what he described as the major international players in the war - the U.S., Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Qatar, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. The renewed effort replaces last month's U.S.-Russian ceasefire, which collapsed within days, and Washington's now-abandoned talks with Moscow on a military partnership against the Islamic State group and al-Qaida militants.

Turkish-backed Syrian opposition captures Dabiq from IS

BEIRUT (AP)—Turkish-backed Syrian opposition forces captured the symbolically-significant town of Dabiq from the Islamic State group on Sunday as government forces reversed recent rebel advances in the center of the country.

Though only a small town of marginal strategic importance in northern Syria, Dabiq has figured centrally in IS propaganda. Citing Islamic lore, the extremist group claims it will be the stage for an apocalyptic battle between Crusaders and an army of the Muslim caliphate that will herald doomsday.

Meanwhile, southwest of Dabiq, Syrian government forces pounded rebel-held districts in the contested city of Aleppo, culminating in a devastating airstrike on a residential building in the Qaterji neighborhood late in the evening that killed at least 25 people, according to the Civil Defense search-and-rescue outfit. Spokesman Ibrahim Alhaj said some families remain trapped under the rubble.

The Qaterji attack brought the death toll to 49 from strikes on opposition-run eastern Aleppo on Sunday, according to Al Haj.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights group, which monitors the conflict through local contacts, put the toll from the Qaterji attack at no less than 15 civilian fatalities, and Sunday's tally for the eastern portion of the city at 31 civilians.

Russian jets are also known to fly sorties over east Aleppo. Russia is a key backer of embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad in the country's raging war.

In Dabiq, Islamic State fighters put up "minimal" resistance in defending the town, according to a commander of the Syrian opposition Hamza Brigade, before they withdrew south to al-Bab, which remains under IS control.

Saif Abu Bakr said some 2,000 opposition fighters pushed into Dabiq with tank and artillery support from the Turkish army. The commander said IS left the town heavily mined.

Both Turkish and international coalition warplanes conducted airstrikes on Dabiq and nearby Arshak, the Turkish state-run Anadolu news agency reported.

The U.S. envoy to the coalition against IS, Brett McGurk, tweeted Sunday that the extremist group had promised a "final victory" in Dabiq, but that its fighters had instead "fled in defeat at the hands of Syrians supported by our @ coalition."

Government forces meanwhile sustained their push against rebels in the central Hama province after an ambitious month-long campaign spearheaded by al-Qaida-linked insurgents ground to a halt amid factional infighting.

Focus

'We hope it will be over': Retrial to open in 1979 Patz case

By JENNIFER PELTZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—It took nearly four decades to find and try a suspect in the haunting disappearance of first-grader Etan Patz. The trial itself spanned three months of testimony and 18 days of deliberations before a jury finally deadlocked.

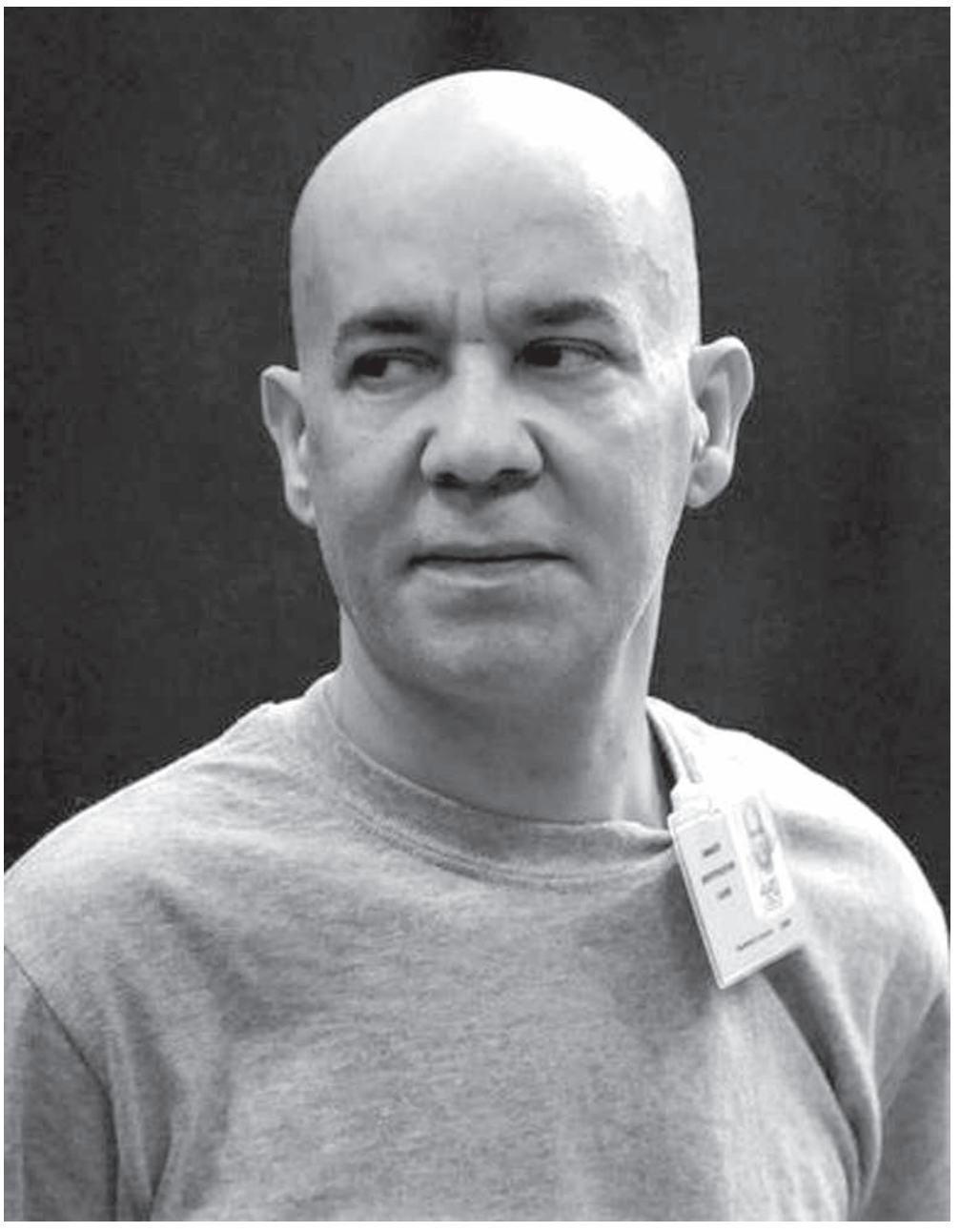
Now it's about to unfold all over again.

Opening statements are expected this week in the retrial of a case that reshaped American parenting and the pursuit of missing children.

Etan, who vanished while heading to his New York City school bus stop in 1979, was among the first missing children whose face was put on milk cartons, and his case prompted many parents to stop letting their children roam their neighborhoods alone.

Prosecutors will have to reassemble a murder case that was already complicated by faded memories, the deaths of witnesses and the fact that no trace of Etan has ever been found. The defense goes in knowing the last jury voted 11-1 to convict.

And Etan's parents face revisiting their 6-year-old's disappearance and suspect Pedro Hernandez's account of choking him, given in recorded confessions that defense lawyers say were false. Still, Etan's father has said the first trial succeeded in providing long-sought answers for the Patzes, if not in resolving the case.



AP

In this Nov. 15, 2012, file photo, Pedro Hernandez appears in Manhattan criminal court in New York.

Now, finally, "we hope it will be over soon," Stanley Patz said by email last month, declining to elaborate ahead of the retrial.

Etan disappeared May 25, 1979, the first day he was allowed to walk the two blocks to his bus stop alone.

Hernandez was then a teenage stock clerk at a nearby corner store. But he wasn't a suspect until 2012, when his brother-in-law told police that Hernandez had told a summer 1979 prayer group he had killed a child in New York. His ex-wife and a neighbor later said he'd also made similar statements to them.

Detectives then got a confession from Hernandez himself.

"I wanted to let go, but I just couldn't let go. I felt like something just took over me," Hernandez said on video, describing how he choked the boy after luring him to the convenience store basement with the promise of a soda. Prosecutors suggest the motive was sexual.

Hernandez's defense says the Maple Shade, New Jersey, man has mental problems that made him imagine he attacked Etan. A defense psychiatrist diagnosed Hernandez, 55, with schizotypal personality disorder; symptoms can include delusions, which Hernandez's family says he has had.

"Pedro Hernandez is the only witness against himself," defense lawyer Harvey Fishbein told jurors last year. "Yet he is inconsistent and unreliable."

The defense also argued that a different, longtime suspect was the more likely killer.

After the first trial, many jurors said they felt Hernandez's confession was compellingly detailed and supported by his earlier admissions. Some jurors attributed his mental problems to a guilty conscience. But the lone holdout said he felt that Hernandez's mental health history was a big factor and that there wasn't enough non-circumstantial evidence to convict him.

Prosecutors' and defense lawyers' central arguments and evidence haven't changed, but both sides are approaching the retrial mindful of the deadlock and the growing passage of time.

During jury selection this month, Fishbein asked prospective members to vouch that if they ended up becoming a lone holdout for or against conviction, they wouldn't change their minds just because no one else agreed. And Illuzzi asked whether any potential jurors felt the 37-year-old case was "enough already" and shouldn't be pursued further. None said yes.

About 5 percent of felony trials end in hung juries, and roughly one-third of them are retried, rather than plea-bargained or dismissed, researchers have found.

Officials and court groups don't have statistics on the outcomes of those retrials. But anecdotally, most end in convictions, as do most trials in general, said James A. Cohen, a Fordham University School of Law professor who specializes in criminal defense.

A look at case of Etan Patz, missing boy who fueled movement

By JENNIFER PELTZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK (AP)—The 1979 disappearance of Etan Patz helped catalyze a national missing-children's movement. Six-year-old Etan was one of the first children whose disappearance was publicized in what became a high-profile way: on milk cartons. His case also helped usher in an age of parental anxiety. The suspect in Etan's disappearance, Pedro Hernandez, is now about to be retried on murder and kidnapping charges, after a jury deadlocked last year. He confessed in 2012, but his lawyers say his admissions are false.

A brief explanation of Etan's disappearance and the ensuing murder case:

A YOUNG BOY VANISHES, AND A MOVEMENT BEGINS

Etan was walking to his Manhattan school bus stop alone for the first time on May 25, 1979, when he disappeared, igniting an exhaustive search and helping to make missing children a national cause in the United States.

The anniversary of his disappearance became National Missing Children's Day. His parents helped press for new laws that established a national hotline and made it easier for law enforcement agencies to share information about missing children. The movement grew after the kidnapping and killing of 6-year-old Adam Walsh in 1981 in Florida. Frightened parents soon stopped letting children walk alone to school and play unsupervised in their neighborhoods.

AN INVESTIGATION SPANS CONTINENTS AND DECADES

Etan's body has never been found, but his family had him legally declared dead in 2001. The investigation stretched across decades and even reached Israel. Hernandez worked at a convenience store in Etan's neighborhood, and police noted meeting him among many people they encountered while searching, but he was never a suspect until 2012, when police got a tip and then a confession.

THE PROSECUTION STRESSES CONFESSIONS

Prosecutors' case centers on Hernandez's confessions, plus statements relatives and acquaintances said he made to them earlier about killing a child.

In his recorded confessions to authorities, Hernandez, 55, of Maple Shade, New Jersey, tranquilly recounts offering soda to entice Etan into the convenience store basement, then choking him. Hernandez says he put the still-alive boy into a plastic bag and a box, and left it in an alley.

One of his brothers-in-law testified at the first trial that Hernandez startled a prayer group in summer 1979 by saying he had killed a child in New York. A neighbor and Hernandez's ex-wife said he made similar remarks to them, though some details varied.

There's no physical evidence against Hernandez.

DEFENSE POINTS TO ANOTHER SUSPECT

While prosecutors call Hernandez's confessions credible, his defense says his various admissions are the false imaginings of a man with mental illness and a very low IQ. A psychiatrist testified at the first trial that Hernandez, 55, has schizotypal personality disorder, which can feature symptoms including delusions. Hernandez's daughter told jurors he saw people who weren't there, talked to himself and started making dinners at 2 a.m. Hernandez himself didn't testify.

The defense also wants jurors to consider longtime suspect Jose Ramos, a convicted Pennsylvania child molester who dated a woman who sometimes walked Etan home from school.

Ramos was never criminally charged and denies involvement in Etan's death. But a former federal prosecutors and a prison informant testified at the first trial that Ramos made incriminating statements to them. Ramos wasn't called to testify, having indicated he'd invoke his Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination.

WHAT'S NEXT

Opening statements in Hernandez's retrial are expected this week.

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

Prime time Prius: Toyota offers a more practical plug-in

By CHARLES FLEMING
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Pity the poor Prius!

Toyota brought the ugly-duckling hybrid to market in 2000, and with a combination of smart technology and savvy marketing, it soon became the world's best-selling hybrid.

Four years ago, it became the best-selling car in California — essential for anyone who wanted good gas mileage, good-guy green credibility and access to high occupancy vehicle carpool lanes.

That was then. Now, all these years later, the Japanese trailblazer is playing catchup, trying to compete with a host of hybrids that are beating Prius at its own game.

Battery technology has brought Teslas, Leafs and Bolt EVs to the forefront of green technology. Engine technology has given competing Japanese, Korean and American sedans equivalent gas mileage.

And almost two dozen other vehicles sold in 2016 qualified for California's HOV carpool lane stickers, which recent Priuses do not.

Sales have fallen. Toyota sold 221,080 Priuses in the U.S. in 2012. But that number dropped in every subsequent year, declining to 173,334 in 2015. Barely more than 100,000 will be sold this year.

So Toyota is putting new life into the Prius line with Prime, a trio of 2017 plug-in hybrids that bring extended battery-electric range to the brand without sacrificing much performance or cargo space and without reducing its stellar gasoline engine mileage.

They'll also qualify for a California green carpool sticker.

The new plug-ins, built around an 8.8 kilowatt lithium ion battery that has twice as many cells as any previous Prius plug-in (the Plug-in Hybrid, which Toyota discontinued in 2015), can go 25 miles in electric mode before the gasoline engine takes over. (The new battery and other components add more than 300 pounds to the weight of the vehicle.) That gives the Prime 124 miles per gallon in EV equivalence, but the car still gets a combined 54 miles per gallon in gasoline mode and has a total range of 640 miles.

Boldly, Toyota is introducing the Prime in only three trim levels, at three price points. There are no options. You get a Prime Plus, a Prime Premium or a Prime Advanced, and that's it. No adding the special Advanced wheels to the Plus package.

They're priced aggressively. The Plus starts at $27,965, the Premium at $29,665 and the Advanced at $33,965. (For comparison, the lowest base model of the entry-level Prius Two is priced from $25,850.)

Those numbers do not reflect federal and state tax credits or rebates, which in some localities could total $6,500. The Prime line will be sold in all 50 U.S. states.

On the road, the Prime feels like nothing so much as … a Prius. It looks like one, and drives like one and has many of its familiar attributes.

In EV mode, it's almost silent, but for a slight transmission whir. Like the Toyota Mirai, it lacks the torquey punch that EV owners love, and its passing power isn't going to impress anyone.

Spinning a new Prime Premium up and down a few hills last week, braving hot temperatures, I even tested the acceleration with the AC off. No dice. The Prime may be able to travel at 85 mph in all-electric mode, but you'll have to allow plenty of time for it to get up to that speed.

It's ergonomically sound, easy to operate and comfortable, and has the deeply sloped dashboard and the same visibility limits as its Prius predecessors. But it has a good solid Toyota feel. The fit and finish are high. The new colors — Blizzard Pearl and Hypersonic Red, among them — are appealing.

AP
The new Prius plug-ins are built around an 8.8 kW lithium ion battery that has twice as many cells as any previous Prius plug-in.

Interior features include a new 11.6-inch touch screen information and navigation screen, on the Premium and Advanced models. (The Plus comes with a 4.2-inch screen.) The Advanced trim line also includes a variety of phone-based apps that will make it possible for the owner to set charge times, start the vehicle in EV mode remotely and initiate interior climate control settings before getting into the car.

All versions will come with the Toyota Safety Sense package, which comprises a pre-collision warning and braking system, pedestrian detection, lane departure alert and more. They all also will include tire pressure monitoring, hill-start control and a tire repair kit in place of a spare tire (that's something else the battery takes away). To soften that, Toyota will throw in three years of free roadside assistance.

Making a virtue of necessity, Toyota engineers say they hit the sweet spot with a battery big enough to increase the Prius' all-electric range to 25 miles, but not so big that its heft negatively affects the overall great gas mileage.

They call this "a balance of efficiency."

In fact, Toyota made the battery as big as it could possibly be, using the existing Prius liftback platform. (The Prime uses the same dual-motor technology that drives the liftback, too.)

Although the company notes that 25 miles will cover most Americans' drive to work, and many Americans' drive to work and back home, it may be too short to appeal to Chevy Volt owners accustomed to twice that.

Charge times will be about 5.5 hours on a standard 110-volt plug, the kind that is standard in all homes and garages. It will be just over two hours at 240 volts, on a home-based or public fast charger. (Toyota will throw in a $100 gift card to use at ChargePoint charging stations.)

The Primes will take some knocks, and lose some customers, because making space for the new battery while maintaining head room and leg room in the front and back seats meant building a four-seater. A center console separates the two back seats where a fifth seat might go.

That's down one seat from the current Prius line and the same seating chart Toyota is using on its new hydrogen fuel cell Mirai. The Primes have 19.8 cubic feet of cargo volume, Toyota says, which is a little smaller than the 24.6 cubic feet available on the current Prius.

They also may take some heat for making the Primes non-compatible with Apple CarPlay.

Toyota will continue selling the non-Prime, or even sub-Prime, non-plug-in hybrid Priuses. For 2017, the company will offer the Prius Two, Three and Four, in various trim lines.

Toyota will launch the Prime line in November, and hopes to sell 20,000 units this year, company executives said.

NUTS & BOLTS

2017 Toyota Prius Prime

- Quick take: Toyota puts a longer-range plug-in into a crowded EV market
- Highs: A great hybrid just got better
- Lows: Only 25 all-EV miles per charge
- Vehicle type: Four-door, four-seat, plug-in hybrid sedan
- Base price: $27,965
- Price as tested: $29,665
- Powertrain: 1.8-liter 4-cylinder gas engine paired with electric motor
- Transmission: ECVT automatic
- Horsepower: 95
- Torque: 105 pound-feet
- EPA fuel economy rating: 55 miles per gallon city / 53 mpg highway / 54 mpg combined; 124 MPGe in EV mode

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

†Rosa Cruz San Nicolas Norita

December 20, 1950 - October 12, 2016

In her new life she now joins her:
Parents: Juan Soriano San Nicolas
Francisca Cruz San Nicolas
Parents In Law: Baldomero N. Norita
Rosa Flores Norita

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Husband: **Nicanor "Nick" Flores Norita**
Children: **Lani** N. and Randy Pelisamen
(Austin Dre, Malinkeya, Elijah, Anaiah, Anicah)
Evita SN. Norita (Leitina SN. Norita / Quinton Muna {Quinton Junior}, Justin, Josiah, Lanissa)
Nicky Jr. SN. Norita (Rose Lian C. Norita)
Vicente SN. Norita (Vincent Jr., Vileene, Vinco, Vinci)

Sister at Heart: †Elsie N. Ngirchelchol and children
Brothers and Sisters: †Vicente C. San Nicolas & Mina San Nicolas and children
Joaquin C. San Nicolas and †Linda G. San Nicolas and Children
Rita SN and †Joseph Diego and children
Silvestre C. San Nicolas and Priscilla B. San Nicolas and children
†Gonzalo C. San Nicolas
Juan C. San Nicolas and Francisca T. San Nicolas and children
†Miguel C. San Nicolas
Henry C. San Nicolas and daughter
Pedro C. San Nicolas and Sol C. San Nicolas and children
Brother In-Law and Sister In-Law: Juan F. Norita and †Crispina L. Norita and children

She is additionally survived by numerous grandchildren, a great grandchild, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intention for the repose of her soul is being celebrated every morning at 6:00am at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral. Holy Rosary is being prayed each evening at 7:30pm at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2016. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 am. Responso and Holy Rosary will be prayed upon arrival of remains.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by Interment Service at Mt. Carmel cemetery.

Please join us in prayers,

Thank you • Si Yu'us Ma'ase • Olomwaay

Nicanor "Nick" Flores Norita,
Children and Families

Life & Style

Affleck's 'The Accountant' tops charts with $24.7M

AP
In this image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Ben Affleck appears in a scene from "The Accountant."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ben Affleck is still a box office draw outside of the bat suit.

His new thriller "The Accountant" opened to a chart-topping $24.7 million this weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. Gavin O'Connor directed the R-rated thriller, starring Affleck as an autistic mathematician. The film didn't play especially well with critics, but audiences, who were 58 percent male and 68 percent over the age of 35, gave it a promising "A" CinemaScore.

It's the continuation of what proves to be a long and fruitful partnership between Affleck and Warner Bros. Although "The Accountant," which cost a reported $40 million to produce, didn't quite hit the heights of "Gone Girl's" $37.5 million opening, it is in the range of some of his other R-rated fall openings with the studio. "Argo," for instance, launched to $19.5 million in 2012, and "The Town," took in $23.8 million in 2010.

"The Accountant" also far-surpassed Warner Bros.' early predictions for the film, which had it in the $15 to $20 million range.

"We're in the Ben Affleck business, and we're proud of it. We've had a lot of movies with him, and we have a lot of movies coming up with him," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. president of domestic distribution. "Audiences just love him."

Affleck's mob drama "Live By Night," which he wrote, directed and stars in, opens on Christmas. He also has the DC comics films with the studio.

The weekend's other new star-driven project, "Kevin Hart: What Now?" narrowly took second place over last week's champ "The Girl on the Train." The Kevin Hart concert film, which Universal Pictures distributed, took in $11.98 million. The comedian's 2013 concert film "Kevin Hart: Let Me Explain" opened to a similar $10 million in 2013.

"We love Kevin Hart and we love our association with him. This is our fourth collaboration with him this year alone," said Nick Carpou, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "He is tireless in the way that he promotes his projects and the way that he's always working. It's really a pleasure to be part of it."

In third place, "The Girl on the Train" netted $11.975 million for Universal, bringing its domestic total to $46.6 million. With such a minuscule difference, the Universal films could easily switch places when final numbers come in on Monday.

Holdovers "Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children" and "Deepwater Horizon" rounded out the top five with $8.9 million and $6.4 million, respectively.

The weekend's other new opener, the Mattel-inspired "Max Steel," bombed with only $2.2 million. Open Road distributed the film starring Ben Winchell, which currently has a zero percent on Rotten Tomatoes.

Overall, the year is still up 3.5 percent, but the fall season is down from last year, according to box office tracker comScore.

"In the wake of the summer season, the fall always seems a little slow. This year is sort of typical in that way. We haven't had an October breakout hit like we had with 'Gravity' and 'The Martian,'" said Paul Dergarabedian, comScore's senior media analyst. So far, the fall's top-grossing film is "Sully," which has grossed $118.4 million to date.

"I'm thinking we're going to have a renaissance at the box office in a week or two and things could turn around," he added, noting big upcoming films like "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back," ''Doctor Strange," and "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them."

Internationally, "Inferno," starring Tom Hanks, opened in 53 territories to $50 million in advance of its North American release on Oct. 28.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"The Accountant,"** $24.7 million ($2.8 million international).
2. **"Kevin Hart: What Now?"** $11.98 million.
3. **"The Girl on the Train,"** $11.975 million ($7.8 million international).
4. **"Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children,"** $8.9 million ($23.5 million international).
5. **"Deepwater Horizon,"** $6.4 million ($4.2 million international).
6. **"Storks,"** $5.6 million ($10.6 million international).
7. **"The Magnificent Seven,"** $5.2 million ($3.5 million international).
8. **"Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life,"** $4.3 million.
9. **"Sully,"** $3 million ($1.3 million international).
10. "The Birth of a Nation," $2.7 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. **"Inferno,"** $50 million.
2. **"Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children,"** $23.5 million.
3. **"Operation Mekong,"** $21 million.
4. **"The BFG,"** $13.5 million.
5. **"Luck-Key"** $12.6 million.
6. **"Storks,"** $10.6 million.
7. **"Bridget Jones's Baby,"** $10.4 million.
8. **"The Girl on the Train,"** $7.8 million.
9. **"I Belonged to You,"** $7 million.
10. **"Finding Dory,"** $6.4 million.

Homegrown fashion industry bursts onto scene in Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—Like so much else in Cuba, shopping for clothes isn't easy.

Buying a simple pair of socks or a T-shirt means choosing between the wildly overpriced, shoddy offerings of state-run stores and the bales of low-priced clothing illegally imported by "mules" traveling from the United States, Ecuador or Panama.

This year, a third option is bursting onto the scene after years of growing quietly in backroom workshops and bedroom studios. A small homegrown fashion industry is winning renown and an increasing share of Cubans' limited clothing budget with simple but fun-and-stylish clothing produced on the island with natural fabrics and sold at competitive prices.

Hundreds of private designers are turning out gauzy wedding dresses, brilliantly decorated bathing suits, linen pants and even uniforms for state businesses. Last week, dozens of designers displayed their wares at the five-day Havana Fashion Week at Cuba's most elegant theaters, where hundreds turned out for runway shows, private fittings and cocktail parties.

AP
In this Oct. 14, 2016, photo, Cuban fashion designer Mario Freixas poses for a photo as he walks among vintage american cars on a street in Havana, Cuba.

"The changes that have taken place in this country, the openings, make things easier," said Jesus Frias, a designer who put on a swimwear runway show on Friday. "There's a fashion renaissance in Cuba but it can't be a priority for the state, so it's we private designers who are bringing it back."

The growth of the artisanal fashion industry comes thanks to free-market reforms put in place by President Raul Castro after he took power in 2008. Unlike some new private businesses, the fashion industry is receiving a relatively warm welcome from the communist bureaucracy, perhaps because it doesn't directly compete with the state. After successful runs in the first decades of Cuba's socialist revolution, state-run clothing businesses were hurt by the collapse of the Soviet Union and had largely disappeared by the mid-1990s.

Celebrities and fashionistas have made Havana a hot destination over the last two years amid a boom in tourism set off by detente with the United States. In May, French label Chanel took over Havana's tree-lined Prado boulevard for a runway show that garnered global attention, and anger among many Cubans for its privatization of one of the main thoroughfares in the capital of a country that has declared socialist equality as its guiding principle.

Privately designed clothes remain out of reach for Cubans on state salaries of about $30 a month, but those with private-sector jobs or help from family overseas can afford them. Mario Freixas, a well-known designer who dresses many of the stars of state-run television, sells shirts for $20 and men's and women's pants for $30.

Alongside the domestic market, Cuba's own designers are hoping that their lightweight blouses and fringed swimsuits will become popular items for visitors to take home.

Randy Travis stuns crowd, sings at Hall of Fame induction

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country singer Randy Travis found his distinctive voice three years after a life-threatening stroke and sang "Amazing Grace" during his induction Sunday into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The Grammy-winning baritone singer battled back from the stroke in 2013 to sing again during the medallion ceremony in Nashville, Tennessee. He was inducted along with fiddler Charlie Daniels and record producer Fred Foster.

Fellow artists including Kris Kristofferson, Dolly Parton, Alan Jackson, Brad Paisley, Garth Brooks and more honored the three inductees with musical tributes.

But it was Travis' singing that brought a stunned silence and tears to the crowd after years of rehabilitation and therapy to regain his voice.

Mary Davis-Travis, his wife, spoke about the numerous procedures and surgeries to save his life and a six-month stay in the hospital after a viral infection caused his stroke.

AP

From left, artist Randy Travis and wife Mary Travis as the Country Music Hall of Fame Medallion Ceremony at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016 in Nashville, Tenn.

"Randy stared death in the face, but death blinked," Davis-Travis said. "Today God's proof of a miracle stands before you."

The 57-year-old singer was honored for being the first country artist whose debut album "Storms of Life" went platinum in its first year and he ushered in a wave of neo-traditional singers like Alan Jackson, Clint Black and Brooks in the 1990s.

Jackson, who performed "On the Other Hand," talked about going out on tour with Travis in the early '90s and compared him to Elvis.

"When he sang, the women were screaming and fainting and it was crazy," Jackson said. "I loved it. Someone singing real country music and having that effect and selling all those records, it just made me so happy."

Daniels, the fiddler player behind the hit song "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," was honored for his multi-genre style blending Southern rock, bluegrass, gospel and country music.

"A plaque on this wall is not just another award or accolade," Daniels said. "It's a page in a history book. An unending history book."

Jamey Johnson performed his song, "Long Haired Country Boy," while Trace Adkins performed "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," with fiddler Andrea Zonn.

Foster ran the influential Monument Records, which helped launch the careers of Roy Orbison and Willie Nelson as well as Parton and Kristofferson. Kristofferson sang his iconic song "Me and Bobby McGee," which Foster helped co-write and produce, while Parton sang "Dumb Blonde," from her debut album produced by Foster.

She praised Foster for giving her a shot and still being a gentleman when Porter Wagoner stole her away to be on his television show.

Vince Gill presented Foster with the medallion and noted Foster was a lover of great songs and a champion of unique singers.

Dylan's music increases by 500 percent following Nobel win

NEW YORK (AP)—Following Bob Dylan's win for the 2016 Nobel Prize in literature, the singer-songwriter's music has increased by more than 500 percent on Spotify.

A day after Dylan's win, the digital music platform said Friday that streams for his songs jumped by 512 percent globally. His most-listened song after earning the prize was "Like a Rolling Stone," which was increased by 258 percent.

Dylan is the first musician to earn the Nobel Prize in literature. The 75-year-old is arguably the most iconic poet-musician of his generation.

He's the first American winner of the Nobel literature prize since Toni Morrison in 1993.

AP

In this May 22, 1966, file photo, Bob Dylan gestures during a news conference in Paris, France. Dylan won the 2016 Nobel Prize in literature on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016, a stunning announcement that for the first time bestowed the prestigious award on a musician for "having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition."

Actress Ali MacGraw to be honored as Santa Fe 'treasure'

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—Actress and longtime New Mexico resident Ali MacGraw will be recognized for her advocacy work in the community.

The "Love Story" star is being honored Sunday as one of four new "Santa Fe Living Treasures."

The 77-year-old, who has lived in Tesuque in Santa Fe County since 1994, is being singled out for her charity work.

MacGraw tells the Santa Fe New Mexican (http://bit.ly/2dthRNJ) that she is just "an ant" in a network of people who volunteer around Santa Fe.

She says her past fame can sometimes help draw more attention to an issue.

MacGraw advocates for several causes—many of them involving animals.

She supported legislation that would ban cockfighting and was present in 2007 when it was signed into law.

Pamela Anderson's present for Julian Assange: Vegan meal

LONDON (AP)—Former "Baywatch" star Pamela Anderson has brought WikiLeaks chief Julian Assange a vegan meal and expressed concern for his health.

She told Britain's Press Association on Sunday that she had brought Assange "a nice vegan lunch and some vegan snacks" the day before.

Assange has sought refuge at the Ecuadorean Embassy in central London for more than four years to avoid returning to Sweden, which is seeking Assange's extradition in a rape investigation. Assange denies the rape allegation and says he fears being extradited to the U.S. to face espionage charges if he leaves.

Anderson joked that Assange wasn't pleased with her choice of a meal, saying "he said I tortured him with bringing him vegan food."

She says she supports Assange and is worried about his health and family.

Woman's move to new state doesn't bring new friends

DEAR ABBY: I moved to a new state two years ago, mostly because I had a friend who lived here part-time. I have distanced myself from many of the people she has introduced me to because they all talk about each other behind their backs. They also don't work many hours and start drinking very early in the day.

The other night I had my friend and her husband over for dinner with my boyfriend and me. For most of the night she was on the phone Facebooking and texting pictures of my dinner table to people I don't bother with. There was absolutely no conversation between the two of us that night. When I said something about her being on the phone, her answer was that she was answering her Facebook messages. I found it extremely rude.

Because I have distanced myself from others around here, I'm not sure if I should say anything to her because if I do, it will mean I won't have any friends around at all. What do you think?

AFTERTHOUGHT IN FLORIDA

DEAR AFTERTHOUGHT: Birds of a feather flock together. You made a huge mistake in giving up your old life to follow this "friend," who appears to not only lack basic manners, but also to be indifferent to your feelings. It's time to either start making new friends with people who think and act more like you do, or return where you came from so you can be with folks with whom you have more in common.

DEAR ABBY: I am a happily divorced mother of two and have a wonderful life. I have a great relationship with my ex. He's a wonderful father, and I'm grateful for that. We never fight and I always try to keep the peace.

He is remarried to a lovely woman and has another child with her, an adorable little boy. I consider him to be my children's brother and make sure to buy him birthday and holiday gifts. I ask my children which milestones he has conquered and Facetime with him, too.

I'm writing because my grandmother, whom I love dearly, thinks I am not being nice and that I should go inside when I pick up my children and visit with the baby. She constantly asks me what my ex and his wife are doing. I always tell her I have no idea, and that it's not my business.

I respect and want boundaries. I want to raise our children together and see them at our children's events, birthdays, etc. How can I get my grandma to understand that I'm in a good place and glad that my ex is, too? I'm not interested in knowing where he is every second. Grandma is a very tough, strong, wonderful lady who loves your column.

MOVED ON IN THE SOUTH

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR MOVED ON: You seem like a healthy, well-adjusted woman. Point out to your grandmother that the good relationship you enjoy with your ex and his wife is based on the fact that you don't ask questions or meddle in their lives. Suggest that if Grandma wants to know how they are and what they're doing that she pick up a phone and ask them herself. That way, the person they will avoid will be her and not you. Repeat that message as needed.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

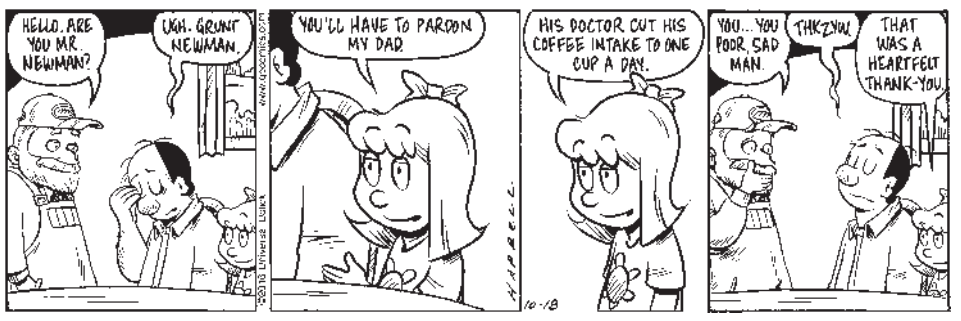
WHERE'S MY JACKET?
IT'S RIGHT ON THE FLOOR WHERE YOU LEFT IT.
IT'S STILL ON THE FLOOR? WHY DIDN'T YOU PUT IT AWAY?
GEE, MY OWN COPY OF THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HELLO. ARE YOU MR. NEWMAN?
UGH. GRUNT NEWMAN.
YOU'LL HAVE TO PARDON MY DAD.
HIS DOCTOR CUT HIS COFFEE INTAKE TO ONE CUP A DAY.
YOU... YOU POOR, SAD MAN.
THKZYOU.
THAT WAS A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU.
10-18

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Obama predecessor
5 Drudge
9 Light brown
12 Birthright barterer
13 Gumbo need
14 Mineral suffix
15 Notting Hill residents
17 Greek vowel
18 Iditarod team
19 Pop singer Paula
21 Song of praise
24 Sax range
25 Hayseed
26 Meal in a container
30 "— Little Teapot"
31 Lucre
32 TV Tarzan Ron
33 Venetian vessels
35 Cartoon vamp Betty
36 Grime
37 Sonata movement
38 Below-the-abdomen area
40 Denny's rival
42 Charged bit
43 Jakarta's land
48 Reuben bread
49 Yuletide tune
50 Franc replacer
51 Leary's drug
52 Pesky insect
53 High point

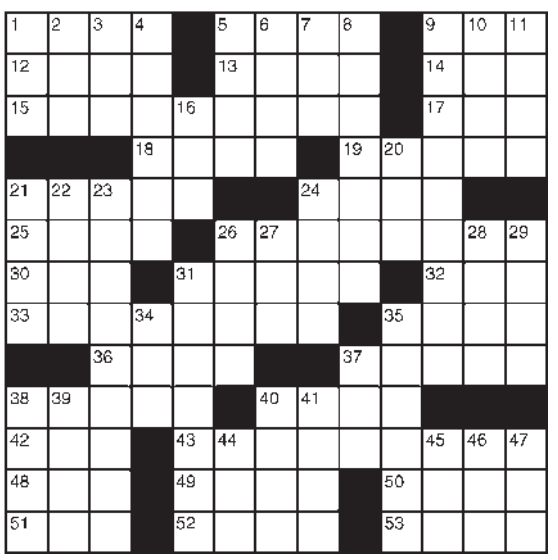
DOWN

1 — canto
2 GI entertainers
3 — Diego
4 Football conference?
5 Vintage video game
6 Stretches (out)
7 Hockey's Bobby
8 With a twang
9 Got drunk
10 Aleutian island
11 "Hud" Oscar winner
16 — -pah band
20 A/C stat
21 Bluenose
22 Wrestling style
23 Stranded
24 Chopping tools
26 Piece of hardware
27 Stop — dime
28 Oaf
29 Syringe, for short
31 Before noon
34 Cato's 502
35 Shepherd of rhyme
37 Director Howard
38 Lass
39 Rogers and Orbison
40 Notion
41 NBC news anchor Lester
44 "Smoking or —?"
45 Take to court
46 Nest egg acronym
47 Fine, to NASA

Solution time: 23 mins.

A	H	E	M		R	E	O		S	L	E	D
P	A	V	I	L	I	O	N		A	U	T	O
P	H	A	S	E	O	N	E		G	L	A	D
			T	N	T		A	P	O	L	L	O
C	A	M	E	O		C	L	A	D			
A	P	E	R		P	H	A	L	A	N	X	
D	O	S		S	E	A	R	S		O	R	E
		P	I	A	N	T	O	M		A	I	A	N
			B	E	E	S		L	L	O	Y	D
N	E	A	R	E	R		L	I	L			
E	R	G	O		P	H	A	R	M	A	C	Y
A	S	I	A		A	B	S	E	N	T	E	E
T	E	N	D		N	O	S		I	O	L	A

Yesterday's answer 10-18



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zac Efron, 29; Esperanza Spalding, 32; Freida Pinto, 32; Wynton Marsalis, 55.

Happy Birthday: Stay calm and offer positive suggestions. This is not the year to make rash decisions or to let others push you in a direction that doesn't suit your needs. Look for the best solutions and refuse to make assumptions regardless of what others do. Be inventive when it comes to money matters, and you'll experience financial gains. Your numbers are 4, 15, 23, 27, 32, 35, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Pick up the pace and make a point to get into the swing of things. Your ability to get things done on time will be impressive. A romantic relationship can be addressed, and future plans can be made. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Let your common sense prevail. A pie-in-the-sky idea will not pan out. Opt to do your own thing instead of getting involved in a joint venture. Test your physical abilities by taking on an energetic challenge. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Emotional matters will surface and are best addressed swiftly before you make matters worse. Don't make assumptions when you should be asking questions and resolving issues carefully. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep an open mind when it comes to business, but don't let anyone persuade you to get involved in something that isn't well thought out. Questions will put you in a better position to decide what's best for you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Personal matters must not be allowed to ruin your productivity or chances of advancement. Look for a clever way to make your point, and try to avoid anyone who might hold you back. Forge ahead without trepidation. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put your ideas and plans on the table and discuss what you intend to do. Showing courage along with a smart presentation will get others on board. Don't let constructive criticism discourage you. Take it into account and move forward. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Expand on the ideas you have been mulling over in your head, but don't share them or put them into play just yet. Put more emphasis on investing in your knowledge and physical appearance. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Live and learn. The changes you bring about at home will carry over into the way your friends and family treat you. Get involved in something that will test your competitive skills, but keep modesty in mind. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You've got more going for you than you realize. Step up and share your plans and you'll find out quickly who is ready to pitch in and help. Surround yourself with good people and you'll get good results. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Live life in the moment. Learn from the experiences you have with others. Teach those less knowledgeable than you, but be willing to listen to those who know more. Sharing will make the difference between success and failure. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Look over any personal papers that might need updating. Invest in your skills, education and your physical wellbeing. The gains you make due to savvy life changes will pay off. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): An emotional blunder will be costly if you aren't honest about the way you feel and what you want. Step outside the situation and you will see more clearly what needs to be done. Protect your health, wealth and your integrity. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, determined and outspoken. You are unpredictable and smart.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4						5	
5			2		7			6
		9				2		
	5			3			9	
4		7				5		8
	6			4			7	
		5				4		
2			3		8			7
	7						1	

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	1	9	4	6	5	2	7	8
8	6	5	2	7	3	4	1	9
2	4	7	8	9	1	5	6	3
1	9	3	7	5	2	8	4	6
5	8	6	3	1	4	7	9	2
4	7	2	9	8	6	1	3	5
9	3	8	5	4	7	6	2	1
7	5	1	6	2	9	3	8	4
6	2	4	1	3	8	9	5	7

Difficulty Level ★ 10/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DEODORIZING SPRAYS — Solution: 8 letters

T	N	A	R	O	D	O	E	D	S	E	O	H	S	E
O	P	U	R	I	F	I	C	A	T	I	O	N	R	L
O	R	E	S	T	R	O	O	M	S	A	G	E	O	T
F	H	N	T	G	O	U	R	M	E	T	O	M	D	T
T	E	I	M	S	S	R	E	Z	I	D	I	X	O	O
N	N	R	E	F	I	L	L	E	M	O	N	R	M	B
I	O	E	G	A	L	D	N	A	I	I	A	W	A	H
M	M	G	R	N	S	K	C	O	S	N	L	T	N	O
R	A	N	E	S	I	N	K	T	G	O	H	V	G	S
E	N	A	E	N	F	K	I	E	S	Ⓡ	S	A	O	P
P	N	T	N	R	U	C	O	O	O	Ⓞ	E	N	Y	I
P	I	M	U	S	K	T	R	O	F	Ⓢ	R	I	A	T
E	C	I	F	F	O	E	M	T	C	Ⓔ	F	L	R	A
P	T	E	P	R	A	C	E	E	E	M	I	L	P	L
Y	D	O	B	G	A	R	B	A	G	E	F	A	S	S

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Aerosol, Bathroom, Body, Bottle, Carpet, Cinnamon, Cooking, Deodorant, Foot, Fresh, Fruity, Garbage, Gourmet, Green, Hawaiian, Hospitals, Lemon, Lime, Mango, Musk, Nutmeg, Odors, Office, Orange, Oxidizers, Peppermint, Pets, Purification, Refill, Restroom, Rose, Safe, Sage, Shoes, Sink, Smell, Socks, Soft, Spray, Stick, Tangerine, Vanilla

Yesterday's Answer: Autumn

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 or 47**, order online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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(1) Cook. Everest Kitchen Co. Email resume to ann.epley@outlook.com

(1) Marketing Representative. Must have a 4 year college degree, (BS or BA in Marketing Management), Bilingual. BFJ Corporation. Email:jcjones@saipan.com.

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Qualifications
- Must have 2 years working experience in sales in the hotel industry at a supervisory level is required and preferably from a high volume hotel.
- Strong knowledge of property management system Fidelio.
- Possess the ability to think strategically, inductively and creatively.
- Must have the ability to travel as requested.
- Must possess self confidence, motivation and tenacity.
- Must be fluent in Korean.
- Willing to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights, and holidays.

(1) Sales Manager – Korean Market

Qualifications
- Must have at least 2-3 years' actual sales manager experience
- Must have strong computer skills
- Strong knowledge of property management system Fidelio.
- Must have a proven track record of developing long term business relationships and consistently meeting or exceeding sales goals. Requires the ability to consistently make cold calls, aggressively pursue new accounts.
- This position requires travel within and outside the region; attendance at various trade shows/events that may be held on weekends and/or evening periods is required.
- Must be fluent in Korean.
- Willing to work flexible schedule including weekends, nights, and holidays.

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Kershaw helps Dodgers blank Cubs 1-0, NLCS even at 1-all

AP
Los Angeles Dodgers' Adrian Gonzalez (23) hits a home run during the second inning of Game 2 of the National League baseball championship series against the Chicago Cubs, Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016, in Chicago.

CHICAGO (AP)—So much for October closer. With his Dodgers desperate for a win, Clayton Kershaw delivered the best start of his checkered playoff career.

The ace left-hander pitched seven sparkling innings, Adrian Gonzalez homered and Los Angeles beat the Chicago Cubs 1-0 Sunday night to tie the NL Championship Series at a game apiece.

Kershaw retired his first 14 batters and allowed just two hits in first outing since he pitched three times in the NL Division Series, including a two-out save in Game 5 on Thursday night in Washington. The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner struck out six and walked one while throwing just 84 pitches in a brisk outing that could help when he returns later in the NLCS.

"It was one of those games where one pitch could have been the deciding factor," Kershaw said. "So, really just kind of couldn't look up for a minute for air and just kind of kept going through it and fortunate to get through it tonight."

Kenley Jansen then struck out four in two perfect innings for his third save of the playoffs. The teams combined for just five hits for the lowest total in a playoff game since the Cardinals and Pirates had four in Game 4 of their 2013 NL Division Series.

"I think that you couldn't have scripted it any better," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "And it was just another fun ballgame."

Roberts almost went to Jansen with a runner on first and two out in the seventh, but Kershaw argued successfully to stay in the game. Javier Baez then hit a drive to the warning track in deep center, but Joc Pederson was there for the catch.

"He hit it pretty good," Kershaw said. "And yeah, after Dave came out and that, I kind of talked my way into it. I really wanted to—he was probably not going to trust me again after that, but, fortunately, he hit it at somebody, so it was good."

Baez's drive was one of a precious few hard-hit balls for the Cubs. Kershaw was that good.

The Dodgers needed a clutch pitching performance after their heartbreaking 8-4 loss in the series opener. And Kershaw responded with a gem that continued his reputation repair after a handful of playoff duds over the years. He was just 3-6 with a 4.79 ERA in 16 career postseason games coming into this series.

"I feel like every start he has the chance to be great," catcher Yasmani Grandal said. "It's just unbelievable to see him pitch, it's unbelievable to see him compete."

Game 3 is Tuesday night in Los Angeles. Cubs right-hander Jake Arrieta, who pitched a no-hitter at Dodger Stadium last August, faces left-hander Rich Hill.

The Cubs lost a 1-0 game in the postseason for the first time since Babe Ruth and the Boston Red Sox blanked them in the 1918 World Series opener.

"Playoffs is always about pitching and defense," said Miguel Montero, the Game 1 star for the Cubs. "Tonight we played great defense as well and we couldn't score."

Chicago, trying for its first pennant in 71 years, wasted a solid start by major league ERA leader Kyle Hendricks, who pitched 5 1/3 innings of three-hit ball in his first outing since he left his Division Series start against San Francisco with a bruised right forearm.

Hendricks' only mistake was a second-inning fastball that Gonzalez drove over the wall in left-center for his second homer of the playoffs. Gonzalez also had a tying two-run single in the eighth inning of the series opener, but Montero's pinch-hit grand slam was the big blow in a dramatic win for Chicago.

A day later, the Cubs couldn't get anything going against Kershaw.

"He kept the ball off the fat part of our bat," manager Joe Maddon said. "He threw strikes like he normally does. So despite not having rest, his command and velocity were still good."

Slumping slugger Anthony Rizzo just missed a home run with a foul drive in the fourth, and then bounced out. Baez and Willson Contreras hit consecutive two-out singles in the fifth for Chicago's first baserunners, but Jason Heyward fouled out to third.

Nothing seemed to bother Kershaw on a muggy night at Wrigley Field. After Grandal dropped a foul popup in the seventh, Kershaw responded with a wry grin, and then struck out Ben Zobrist.

"I honestly thought with him pitching with a couple of days' rest, he wasn't going to be that nasty," Baez said, "but obviously he came ready for us and he just did his job."

Jansen backed Kershaw with flawless relief. The big right-hander struck out Dexter Fowler and Kris Bryant before Rizzo lined meekly to second for the final out.

ABOUT GONZALEZ

Gonzalez became the seventh player in major league history to homer in at least six consecutive playoff series, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. It was the third go-ahead homer of his postseason career.

WHAT A RELIEF

While the Cubs struggled against Jansen and Kershaw, Hendricks and their bullpen gave them a chance. Carl Edwards Jr., Mike Montgomery, Pedro Strop and Aroldis Chapman combined for 3 2/3 innings of hitless relief.

Josh Reddick got Los Angeles' last hit of the night in the sixth, putting runners on first and second. Edwards then came in and got Pederson to hit a soft liner to second that Baez let drop before starting a heady inning-ending double play .

Power outage from Rizzo, Russell costs Cubs against Kershaw

AP
Chicago Cubs second baseman Javier Baez (9) reacts after striking out during the second inning of Game 2 of the National League baseball championship series against the Los Angeles Dodgers Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016, in Chicago.

CHICAGO (AP)—Star slugger Anthony Rizzo hit a soft liner for the Chicago Cubs' final out, which only seemed fitting.

While the rest of Chicago's lineup can take consolation knowing Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw is about to get a few days off, Rizzo and shortstop Addison Russell won't share in that small solace. The duo that totaled 204 RBIs in the regular season is a combined 2 for 45 through six games in the postseason.

Kershaw only underscored their struggles during Los Angeles' 1-0 win Sunday night that tied the NL Championship Series at a game apiece.

Kershaw held Chicago to two hits over seven innings and Kenley Jansen finished with two perfect innings, but that 1-2 punch could quiet Murderers' Row.

The other Cubs have done plenty of damage, with six players getting a hit in an 8-4 Game 1 victory. Rizzo and Russell, however, were a combined 0 for 9 Saturday night before going hitless in six at-bats in Game 2.

Rizzo said changing his plate approach at this point in the series would be foolish. While it sounds counterintuitive, he's learned that patience is the quickest way to end a slump.

"I don't think it's fair to everyone trying to get six, seven, eight hits at one time. I've done that before in my career," he laughed ruefully, "and it doesn't work.

"You just keep going through the process," he added. "Keep battling, keep grinding."

Rizzo and Russell were key contributors for baseball's best regular season team, but both have made every pitcher look unhittable in October, even as Chicago rolled past San Francisco in four games during an NL Division Series.

"We've been taking some good hacks," said Russell, whose tailspin actually began at the end of the regular season. "They're just not falling."

Rizzo batted .292 with 32 home runs and 109 RBIs during the regular season. He's gone 1 for 23 in the playoffs with just a single and three walks, including the only one Kershaw issued in seven innings.

When Rizzo got to 3-0 in that at-bat, he was bristling for a pitch to hit.

"No doubt," he said. "It's a 1-0 game at that point. One swing changes that."

He nearly did that in the fourth inning, turning a 1-1 fastball from Kershaw into a towering shot that cleared the outfield wall in right by plenty—it landed on Sheffield Avenue, behind Wrigley Field—but hooked just outside the foul pole. Kershaw threw high and tight on the next pitch, then coaxed Rizzo into grounding out.

Brees leads Saints past slumping Panthers, 41-38

NEW ORLEANS (AP)— Drew Brees passed for 465 yards and four touchdowns, Wil Lutz kicked a 52-yard field goal with 11 seconds left, and the New Orleans Saints pulled out a 41-38 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Sunday.

With his 15th 400-yard game, Brees broke a tie with Peyton Manning for the most in the regular season.

Brees also led the Saints (2-3) to a second straight victory while Carolina lost its fourth straight despite the return of quarterback Cam Newton, who missed last week's loss to Tampa Bay because of a concussion.

Newton passed for 322 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for a 2-yard score and threw a 2-point conversion to Devin Funchess that tied the game at 38 with 2:58 left, and completed a comeback from an early 21-0 deficit.

However, he was also intercepted by Sterling Moore in the back of the end zone, stalling a promising drive in the first half — a turnover that came back to haunt the defending NFC champions, now 1-5.

Cowboys 30, Packers 16

In Green Bay, Wis., rookie Dak Prescott threw for 247 yards and three touchdowns, and the Cowboys forced four turnovers.

Prescott was 18 of 27, shaking off two fumbles and an interception — the first of his career — to lead the Cowboys (5-1) to their fifth straight win. He showed poise in the fourth quarter while marching the Cowboys on a seven-play, 75-yard drive that ended with a 4-yard touchdown pass to Cole Beasley for an 18-point lead.

The score left Packers fans stunned at Lambeau Field. They were booing at times following another choppy game for the offense. The four turnovers were a season high for Green Bay (3-2).

Even two-time NFL MVP quarterback Aaron Rodgers wasn't immune from the jeering. Rodgers finished 31 of 42 for a season-high 294 yards.

Seahawks 26, Falcons 24

In Seattle, Steven Hauschka's 44-yard field goal with 1:57 remaining capped the 20th career fourth quarter or overtime comeback for Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson.

After watching Matt Ryan blitz the Seahawks for 21 third-quarter points, it was Wilson's turn in the fourth quarter. He led a 70-yarddrive that was capped by Christine Michael's 1-yard run with 4:47 left, but a blocked extra point by Ra'Shede Hageman still had Seattle trailing 24-23.

Seattle then got a needed big play from its defense. Ryan's pass slipped through Julio Jones' hands, was tipped in the air by Richard Sherman and eventually landed in the arms of Earl Thomas, giving Seattle possession at midfield with 3:48 remaining. It was the first time in the game that Jones was targeted and didn't make the catch.

Seattle stalled at the Atlanta 26. This time Hauschka was perfect after missing a 29-yard attempt earlier in the fourth quarter, the result of a bad snap.

Ryan was incomplete on his last four throws, including a breakup by Sherman on a long pass to Jones on which the Falcons screamed for a pass interference flag.

Chiefs 26, Raiders 10

In Oakland, Calif., Spencer Ware ran for a career-high 131 yards and a touchdown and Alex Smith picked apart Oakland's struggling defense.

In their first game since getting blown out by 29 points in Pittsburgh two weeks ago, the Chiefs (3-2) efficiently handled a Raiders team that had overcome defensive shortcomings with a big-play offense to lead the AFC West.

Smith completed 19 of 22 passes for 224 yards, Jamaal Charles and big defensive lineman Dontari Poe each ran for scores, and the Chiefs forced two turnovers by Derek Carr to dampen a fast start to the season by the Raiders (4-2), who are trying to end a 13-year playoff drought.

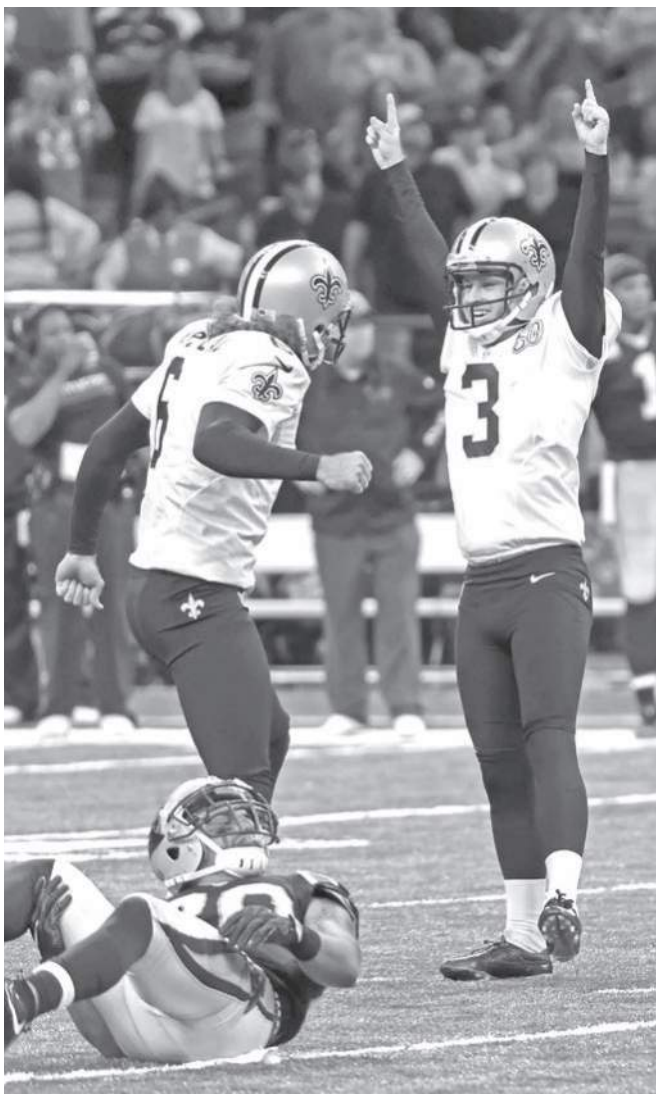
Marcus Peters set up Ware's TD run with an early interception of Carr and Dee Ford forced a fumble from Carr in the fourth quarter to end any hopes of a late comeback.

Texans 26, Colts 23, OT

In Houston, Nick Novak made a 33-yard field goal in overtime to give Houston a comeback victory over Indianapolis.

Brock Osweiler threw a 36-yard pass to Jaelen Strong to get Houston to the 12 and Novak's field goal came two plays later. Indianapolis (2-4) got the ball first in overtime, but Benardrick McKinney sacked Andrew Luck on third down to force a punt.

Osweiler shook off a tough start to throw two touchdown passes in less than 2 minutes in the fourth quarter as Houston (4-2) erased a 14-point deficit to tie it at 23 with 54 seconds left. He found Lamar Miller on a 10-yard catch-and-run TD with 2:47 remaining and, after a stop by the defense, connected with C.J. Fiedorowicz on a 26-yarder that tied it.



AP
New Orleans Saints kicker Wil Lutz (3) celebrates after kicking the game winning field goal in the second half of an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers in New Orleans, Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016.

Redskins 27, Eagles 20

In Landover, Md., Kirk Cousins threw for 263 yards and two touchdowns and the Redskins ran roughshod over one of the NFL's top defenses.

The three-headed running attack of Matt Jones, Robert Kelley and Chris Thompson combined for 231 yards and a touchdown as the Redskins (4-2) won their fourth consecutive game. After starting the season 0-2, Washington has its best record through six games since 2008, when it went 8-8.

The Redskins put up 493 offensive yards against the Eagles (3-2), who came in allowing an average of 266.8 yards and 12.6 points as the league's second-best defense. Cousins connected with Jamison Crowder on a 16-yard touchdown and with Vernon Davis on a 13-yarder. Davis started at tight end in place of Jordan Reed, who was out with a concussion. Jones ran for a 1-yard touchdown and sealed the victory with a 57-yard run as part of his 135-yard day.

Malcolm Jenkins intercepted Cousins and returned it 64 yards for a touchdown. Philadelphia also got an 86-yard kickoff return touchdown by Wendell Smallwood.

Dolphins 30, Steelers 15

In Miami Gardens, Fla., Ben Roethlisberger missed one series because of a left knee injury and was held to 189 yards passing.

Jay Ajayi rushed for 204 yards and two scores on 25 carries for the Dolphins (2-4).

The Steelers (4-2) had scored 74 points in their previous two games, but were outgained 474-297. Pittsburgh's Antonio Brown, the NFL's leading receiver, was held to four receptions for 39 yards. Teammate Sammie Coates, playing with a hand injury, didn't have a catch.

Roethlisberger had only 83 yards passing with 5 minutes left before he drove the Steelers 97 yards for a touchdown. Miami recovered the ensuing onside kick to seal the victory, and on the next play Ajayi scored on a 62-yard run.

Bills 45, 49ers 16

In Orchard Park, N.Y., LeSean McCoy scored three times and the Bills extended their winning streak to four. McCoy had 140 yards rushing and shook off what appeared to be a frightening injury to his right knee late in the second quarter.

Tyrod Taylor threw two touchdown passes in helping Buffalo (4-2) win four straight for the first time since the start of the 2008 season.

Colin Kaepernick provided the 49ers a spark in his first start in nearly a year. Blaine Gabbert was benched following a 33-21 loss to Arizona, and Kaepernick finished 13 of 29 for 187 yards, including a 53-yard touchdown pass to Torrey Smith. But San Francisco (1-5) couldn't finish drives, settling for three field goals by Phil Dawson, in losing its fifth straight game.

Kaepernick was the target of numerous boos and chants when he kneeled during the national anthem in continuing his protest against racial oppression and police brutality.

Patriots 35, Bengals 17

In Foxborough, Mass., playing in his first game in Foxborough since the end of his "Deflategate" suspension, Tom Brady had three touchdown passes and went over 5,000 completions for his career.

Brady finished 29 for 35 for 376 yards. Tight end Rob Gronkowski had seven receptions for a career-high 162 yards and a touchdown.

Cincinnati dropped to 2-4 for the first time since 2010, when it finished 4-12 — its worst season under coach Marvin Lewis.

The Bengals had their moments offensively, scoring on a 2-yard touchdown run by Andy Dalton and 5-yard pass from Dalton to Brandon LaFell. But New England (5-1) bounced back from some sluggish drives early with several big plays in the third quarter.

Giants 27, Ravens 23

In East Rutherford, N.J., a banged-up Odell Beckham Jr. turned a short fourth-and-1 pass into a winning 66-yard catch and run with 1:24 to play as the Giants snapped a three-game losing streak.

The win was the 700th in franchise history. Beckham gave it to the Giants with a career day despite going to the locker room with a hip pointer in the second quarter. Beckham returned before the half and made the Giants (3-3) a winner with a spectacular second half. It featured a 75-yard touchdown catch and a 43-yard reception that set up one of Josh Brown's two field goals.

The Ravens (3-3) lost their third straight.

Beckham finished with eight catches for 222 yards. His late heroics saved the Giants, who were on the verge of a fourth straight loss after Terrance West scored on a 2-yard run with a 2:04 to play, giving the Ravens a short-lived 23-20 lead.

Lions 31, Rams 28

In Detroit, Matt Prater made a tiebreaking, 34-yard field goal with 1:29 left and Rafael Bush followed with a victory-sealing interception two plays later. The Lions (3-3) have won two straight games with Prater making the winning kick and a defensive back following up with an interception on the ensuing possession.

The Rams (3-3) have lost two straight.

Case Keenum completed a Rams-record 19 straight passes, but couldn't connect with Lance Kendricks on the long throw that Bush stepped in front of near midfield. Keenum finished 27 of 32 for 321 yards with three touchdowns — two to Kenny Britt, one to Kendricks — and an interception.

Britt had season highs with seven receptions and 136 yards, 47 of which came on a highlight-reel catch.

Matthew Stafford threw for four Detroit touchdowns. Golden Tate had eight receptions for a career-high 165 yards and a touchdown. Marvin Jones, Anquan Boldin and Andre Roberts also caught TDs for the Lions.

Titans 28, Browns 26

In Nashville, Tenn., Marcus Mariota threw for 284 yards and three touchdowns, and the Titans got their second straight victory — the first time they've won consecutive games since the end of the 2013 season.

The Titans (3-3) matched their win total for all of last season when they went 3-13 and wound up with the No. 1 draft pick overall. They also beat a team other than Jacksonville on their own field for the first time since the 2013 season finale and improved to 3-16 in Nashville.

Cleveland (0-6) is mired in its worst start since 1999 when the Browns lost their first seven as an expansion franchise.

Jaguars 17, Bears 16

In Chicago, Blake Bortles threw for 271 yards and hit a slipping Arrelious Benn for a 51-yard touchdown in the closing minutes.

The Jaguars (2-3) wiped out a 13-0 deficit in the fourth quarter in a matchup of last-place teams. And the go-ahead touchdown might have been helped by the oft-criticized turf at Soldier Field.

Benn slipped as he caught a slant and so did Tracy Porter as he tried to tag the receiver. That allowed Benn, who spent the past three seasons on injured reserve, to get up and run untouched for his first touchdown in five seasons.

That gave the Jaguars a one-point lead with 2:49 left and sent the Bears (1-5) to another loss after they dropped the previous game to Indianapolis on a late TD pass by Andrew Luck. Chicago came up short despite racking up 389 yards.

A 'vulnerable' Steele wins PGA Tour season opener

NAPA, Calif. (AP)—By the end of the opening week of a new PGA Tour season, no one felt more vulnerable than Brendan Steele.

Winless since his rookie season five years ago, Steele was confronted with some bad memories of Silverado when he three-putted the 12th hole on Sunday in Safeway Open. It was the same hole where last year he began a sloppy stretch of five bogeys in six holes that sent him to a 76 and cost him a chance to win.

He was trying not to make mistakes last year. Now he had to try to make birdies.

And he would have to make them with a conventional putter, having never won with anything but the long putter. Steele switched to a short putter when the rule that outlawed the anchored stroke for long putters first was proposed in 2014. He had done fine with it, though he still had doubts he could make putts when they mattered.

He made birdie with a great lag on the par-5 16th. He rolled in an 18-footer for birdie on the 17th. And he made a 7-footer on the 18th, his third straight birdie that carried him to a 7-under 65 and—finally—another PGA Tour victory when Patton Kizzire faltered and couldn't catch him.

"That's really a sweet feeling to know that I can do it under those circumstances," he said.

Before long, he was headed to Malaysia, the next stop on a long PGA Tour season that began in Napa Valley just three weeks after it ended in Atlanta.

The season-opening tournament that began with promise ended in the rain.

This was supposed to be the week where Tiger Woods returned to the PGA Tour for the first time in 14 months. Instead, he mysteriously withdrew just three days after he committed to play, saying his game was "vulnerable" and not where it needed to be.

The opener still had Phil Mickelson, playing a domestic event in the fall for the first time in a decade, and Mickelson still managed to have an influence with a surprisingly large gallery for the dour weather over the last three days.

Mickelson ended a third straight year without a victory, though he tried to make it interesting on the back nine with a pitch shot from the mud to 4 feet that offered the promise of a late charge, only to miss the putt and too many other chances.

He still tied for eighth, raising his career total over 25 years on the PGA Tour to finishing in the top 10 in one-third of his events.

And he had an influence on Steele.

Mickelson took Steele and another rookie, Keegan Bradley, under his wing in 2011 and played one of his fabled money games with them at The Players Championship. The stakes weren't high—they were only rookies, so Mickelson set the wager at a mere $50—but the idea was to teach them to play to win.

Steele already had won a month earlier at the Texas Open, and he shared the 54-hole lead at the PGA Championship later that year in Atlanta, which Bradley wound up winning in a playoff. Steele thinks now early success might have been too much, too soon. So he sought out Mickelson over the last year and asked him for tips on how to play down the stretch. Mickelson's answer was to play to win, and it worked for Steele.

He needed some help, typical of most tournaments.

Starting the final round four shots behind, he got in the mix and still was two shots behind Kizzire, who looked like a winner when he stuffed his tee shot on the 11th hole to 2 feet for a birdie. Kizzire started missing fairways. The only putts he made were for par. He had birdie chances on the last three holes and missed out with a poor tee shot (No. 16), a poor wedge (No. 17) and a 9-iron that missed the green on No. 18.

Kizzire wasn't the only player who left Silverado feeling as though he had let one slip away.

Paul Casey, Scott Piercy and Johnson Wagner all had their chances. Wagner finished with eight straight pars. Casey and Piercy dropped shots at the wrong time. Casey had his fourth straight finish in the top 4 dating to the FedEx Cup playoffs.

"So close, isn't it?" Casey said. "I mean, I played great. I had another wonderful week."

Steele now gets to go back to Augusta National, where he hasn't been since 2012 and started to wonder if he would ever play again.

Mickelson headed into a three-month offseason. He won't show up again until the California desert.

The question leaving wine country was when anyone would see Woods at a golf tournament. Woods said his next target was the Hero World Challenge the first week of December in the Bahamas, an 18-man field of low expectations and even less stress.

Still unanswered is what happened to his game in three days from the time he entered (Friday) until he withdrew (Monday).

SCS

From Page 28

cho (19:27), and SCS's Hannah Li (19:38) and Michaella Yang (20:06).

In the boys U7, Vincent Palacios, who placed second in the first leg, this time was the No. 1 finisher leading fellow San Vicente students in the Top 3. Palacios posted 8:23 to beat schoolmates Chase Agulto (9:15) and Kimo Porras (9:20).

Other finishers in the division were Agape's Raynel Escarlan (10:15), Jason Zhu (11:30), and Tiger Guo (17:15), San Vicente's Seth Sablan (11:16), Arce Sangalang (12:44), and Eloy Deleon Guerrero (13:29), Mt. Carmel School's Jess Jiang (12:52), and SCS's William Guo (12:56).

In the girls U9 division, SCS occupied the Top 4 spots with first leg winner Hilah Bacani making a repeat after registering 7:43, which was faster that her 8:47 in the opener. Bacani prevailed over teammates Jenny Zhang (9:14), Abbie Kim (10:02) and Sheryne Yang (10:02).

Eight other students completed the girls U9 race. The list includes San Vicente's Jayanna Crisostimo (10:28), Rhiettazayne Mendiola (10:43), Karmeann Cabrera (12:30), Bibi Shrestha (15:42), and Tianna Villanueva (17:02), SCS' You Na (11:14) and Fiona Kim (12:09), and Agape's Mary Fu (12:50).

Kian Helgen of San Vicente duplicated Bacani's back-to-back wins after ruling the boys U9 division. Helgen eclipsed his time in the first leg (8:13) after checking in at 7:43 last weekend. He won the neck-and-neck race for the top spot against Grace Christian Academy's Takeru Jim (7:44). Helgen's schoolmate Bryce Royal rounded out the Top 3 after posting 7:56.

SIS's Anthony Gregoire (8:02), William S. Reyes' Cojiro Kaga (8:10), SCS' Alfred Baek (8:27) and Drei Camacho (11:15), San Vicente's Nicholas Taisacan (8:29), Gregory Ngotel (11:52), Aaron Martinez (13:27), Onick Ragbonshe (13:38), Quinoke Manalo (13:35), and Brandon Solomon (13:47), Agape's Wenjie Xu (12:27) and Jonathan Yu (10:37), and Mt. Carmel's Maui Silva Reyes (9:43) completed the finishers list.

Meanwhile, Coume Kaga, who missed the first leg, showed up for the second race and was the No. 1 overall finisher after clocking in at 7:04. She also won the girls U11 age group, defeating GCA's Soleil Lamar (7:17), Agape's Elvira Zhang (8:09) and nine other finishers.

In the boys U11 age group, Aiden Montes' 8:45 gave him the top ranking, ahead of Agape's Bo Chen (9:02) and Eucon International School's John Yu (9:59). Five other runners joined the division.

The second leg of the cross country series also had races in the middle and high school divisions and results will be reported later this week.

CNMI

From Page 28

fier, the CNMI is sending an 18-player field made up of captains Chloe Salvosa and Dianne Pablo, goalies Chevy Kate Alipio, Carla Ballesteros, and Toremy Diaz, defenders Elaine Enriquez, Krizel Tuazon, De Jana Muna, Samantha Manacop, Grace Choi, Pinyarat Shankweiler, Anela Duenas, Bernadette Horey, midfielders Diana Maniacop, Lyka Sally, and Jasmina Phan, and forwards Angelica Sally and Guinevere Borja. Assistant coaches Jimmy Tang and Lalaine Pagarao, physiotherapist Pam Carhill, team manager Mikky Vargas and officials Yu Hung Lee and Longwen Ji completed the CNMI delegation.

"This will probably be the most difficult tournament that we will be in as we will be up against older, bigger, better, and more experienced players from Australia and Jordan. Having said that, matches against these teams will also give us the best opportunity to learn and experience how is it to play at this high level and what we need to work on in our game to get closer to their level," said Borja, who is among the many U15 players suiting up for the U19 squad.

"We are a young team and our motivation is to watch and learn from every tournament we will be competing in. We just have to keep that positive mentality and continue to work on developing our skills by playing against tough teams," the youth player added.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, who was among the officials present at the send-off ceremony yesterday at the Kanoa Resort, said the team is not pressured to win or even score against Australia and Jordan. However, he expects the players to pick up every techniques and skills they could get from the tournament and be inspired to train and worker harder when they get back to the island.

The NMIFA head added that the organization through the help of Asian Football Confederation and other supporters will take every opportunity (to play in international tournaments) given to CNMI national teams.

"We are not afraid to join tournaments or turn down invitations to play in AFC events. Playing outside the CNMI is one of the best ways to develop not only our players, but also our coaches," Tan said.

The Group A qualifier only has three teams after Singapore and Lebanon pulled out, while a neutral host was selected, as no country from the same pool offered to have the event in their turf. With a neutral host, teams are required to pay additional fees and Singapore and Lebanon withdrew due to funding problems. A few more countries from the three other groups also backed out from the qualifying tournaments.

"We still decided to go ahead with the competition because we are committed to the program. We can't deny our players the exposure and experience to play against extremely tough teams like Australia and Jordan. We want to maximize the opportunities presented to us as we have a lot of catching up to do with other countries, which have been playing soccer for decades," Tan said.

NMIFA vice president Vickie Izuka and Executive Committee members Patricia Coleman and Norman Del Rosario joined Tan, the players' parents, officials of NMIFA-member clubs, and other team supporters in sending their best wishes to the China-bound Commonwealth squad. The CNMI bets will leave Saipan on Oct. 28.

8TH

From Page 28

Best Sunshine International-Blue Eagle in its first game, made it to the win column following a 91-70 rout of Save More/MIFICPA (1-1) in the second game last weekend. In the curtain-raiser, 8th Division, which bowed to Ali'i Blue Haus/Bayani in the league opener, pulled off a 61-55 victory against Cavite.

Kelvin Fitial top-scored for 8th Division, firing 15 points, including the 7 of the team's last 9 points. His three straight field goals down the stretch gave 8th Division cushion. Jun Alipio, who missed 8th Division's debut game, also finished in twin digits, registering 10 points, 6 of them came in the fourth quarter.

Dan Barcinas had 22 points on a losing effort for Cavite, which played without gunner Preston Basa. With its No. 1 scorer in the last game out, Cavite, which had 15 triples in its 99-76 rout of PC Bargain last week, knocked in only three shots from the parking lot.

In the second match, Stephen's Pawnshop was on target from downtown to lead Save More from start to finish.

James Abuy came out smoking early in the game, drilling five triples, while Jack Aranda added one as Stephen's Pawnshop built a 27-16 advantage after the first period.

Save More cut the deficit to single digit at the break, 41-48, behind the combined efforts of Sid Quan and Rolly Paraiso. However, Stephen's Pawnshop regained its shooting touch in the third canto to reclaim the double-digit spread, 76-59. Bogs Dayrit converted two triples and Taj Van Buren chipped in one, while Aranda and Michael Espinosa teamed up for 11 points in Stephen's Pawnshop's 28-18 scoring in the third.

With its big lead, Stephen's Pawnshop's starters took a breather in the fourth and let their bench finished the game. Arnold Arellano, who came to play late in the third, capped Stephen's Pawnshop's long-game domination of Save More, scoring 8 of the team's 15 markers in the final canto.

First Game

8th Division 61— Fitial 15, Alipio 12, Lauron 8, Itibus 8, D. Tabora 6, J. Tabora 4, Abadilla 3, Esalan 3, Sanchez 2, Manabat 2.

Cavite 55 — Barcinas 22, Renguul 10, Palacios 6, Laguindam 6, Garcia 4, Iglecias 4, Barrozo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 14-10, 33-27, 44-43, 61-55.

Second Game

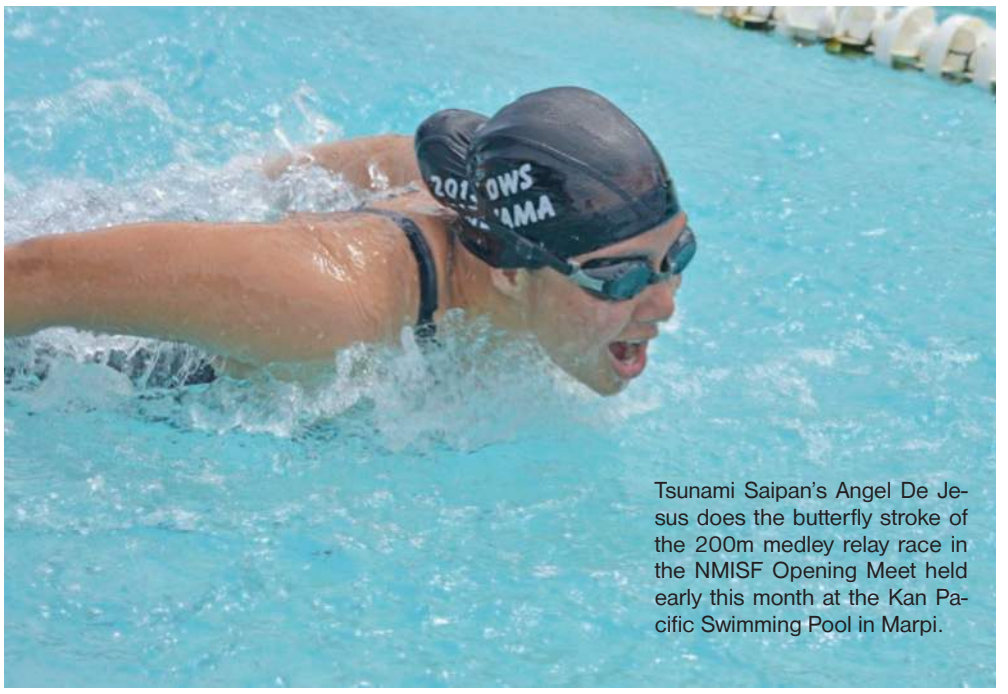
Stephen's Pawnshop 91 — Abuy 17, Arellano 12, Van Buren 12, De Guzman 12, Espinosa 11, Aranda 11, Dayrit 10, G. Aquino 4, L. Aquino 2, Bartolo 2.

Save More 70 — Quan 16, Mangali 15, Paraiso 11, Backe 10, Sison 7, Lilles 4, Villanueva 4, Sanciangco 3.

Scoring by quarters: 27-16, 48-41, 76-59, 91-70.

NMISF Opening Meet

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Tsunami Saipan's Angel De Jesus does the butterfly stroke of the 200m medley relay race in the NMISF Opening Meet held early this month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

Tsunami Saipan's Anthony Camacho-Deleon Guerrero, right, stretches, while Saipan Swim Club's David Boyer gets ready to go to the starting block during the 50m freestyle race.

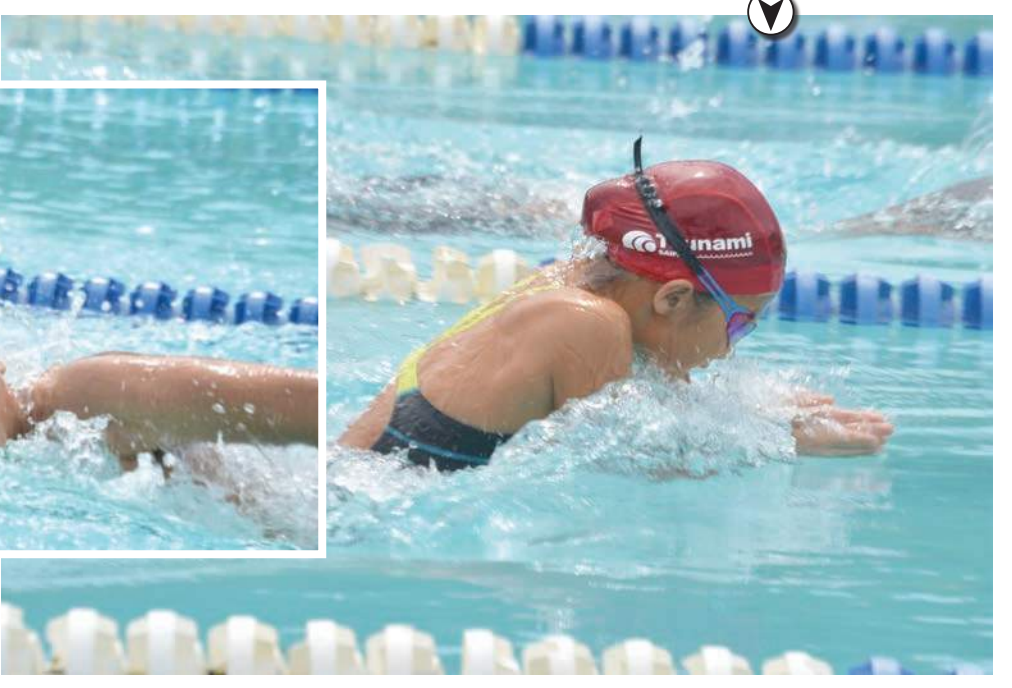
A swimmer competes in the 50m backstroke race.

Tsunami Saipan's Isaiah Aleksenko races in the 200m medley relay.

Saipan Swim Club's Taiyo Akimaru does the backstroke of the 200m individual medley event.

Tsunami Saipan's Aasish Dangol waits for the start of his race.

A Tsunami Saipan swimmer races in the 100m breaststroke event.



Saipan Swim Club's Kento Akimaru is on his way to the finish line of the 100m freestyle event.

Kershaw helps Dodgers blank Cubs 1-0, NLCS even at 1-all

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Sports

Brees leads Saints past slumping Panthers, 41-38

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Players and officials of the CNMI U19 Women's National Team pose for a photo during a send-off ceremony yesterday at the Kanoa Resort. The team is competing in the AFC U19 Women's Championship 2017 Qualifier in Nanjing, China next month.

CNMI debuts in AFC U19 tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U19 Women's National Team is heading to China next week for the AFC U19 Women's Championship 2017 Qualifier with nothing to lose and everything to gain.

"This is the first time that we will be competing in the girls U19 age group and also the first time that we will be facing Australia and Jordan, which are considered as tough teams in this tournament. Our chances of winning may not be that high, but the opportunities to learn from these teams are great," said head coach Luam Khen Koo during a send-off ceremony for the CNMI crew.

The Commonwealth, Australia, and Jordan are in Group A of the qualifying tournament that will be held in Nanjing from Nov. 2 to 5. The three squads will battle for a slot to the AFC U19 Women's Championship 2017 Finals, which will also take place in China. Three other groups will have their separate qualifiers for the right to join early finalists South and North Korea, Japan, and China in next year's contest.

For the the Group A quali-

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SCS, San Vicente top 2nd leg of cross country

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

San Vicente Elementary School and Saipan Community School split the top honors in the two age groups in the second leg of Northern Marianas Athletics' 2016 All Schools Cross Country Series held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

San Vicente ruled the boys U7 division, while SCS prevailed in the girls category. The same results were recorded in the U9 age group.

Yu Jie gave SCS the victory in the girls U7 after she completed the one-lap race (nearly one mile) in 9:49. She was the lone runner in her division to make it to the finish line under the 10-minute mark, as Saipan International School's Phoenix Gross and Agape Christian School's Xin Ye Yang timed in at 10:17 and 10:20, respectively.

Eight other runners finished the race with Agape's Angeline Quan (10:53) coming in at fourth and followed by San Vicente's Frantaysha Robert (11:29), Agape's Xie Ye Yang (12:01), San Vicente's Madison Del Rosario (12:27), Agape's Maria Guo (18:20), San Vicente's Angelina Cama-

See SCS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A San Vicente Elementary School runner sprints to the finish line during the second leg of the Northern Marianas Athletics' 2016 All Schools Cross Country Series held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

8th Division, Stephen's Pawnshop recover

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Stephen's Pawnshop/NMBA and 8th Division/MAFEA bounced back from their debut losses after downing separate foes in the 2016 UFO/IT&E Inter-Organizational Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Stephen's Pawnshop, which fell to

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Stephen's Pawnshop and Save More players battle for the rebound during the second quarter of their game in the UFO/IT&E caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.